

CANADA'S NOT SAFE EITHER | GOING TRANS-FAT-FREE

# MACLEAN'S

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE | [www.macleans.ca](http://www.macleans.ca)

MARCH 29 2004

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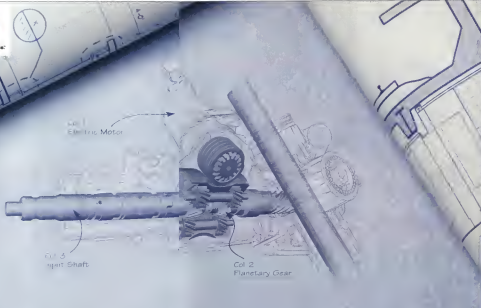


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'I once thought there was something wrong with mothers who wanted to stay at home. Then I had my first child—my priorities turned upside down.' —Kristine Thering, Toronto

#### Motherly advice

As a 41-year-old, career-oriented mother of two boys, I read your article with interest ("Kids in career," *Cover*, March 15). My own experience has taught me that happiness comes from meaningful work and meaningful relationships. Although many women find both types of happiness at the home, for some of us, your advice to "drop-out—if you can afford it" is a recipe for unhappiness. I would have preferred to see some career guidance for women who also want to be mothers. There are choices that allow you to focus on young children and then return to a meaningful and rewarding career.

Nicolea Fitzgerald, Ottawa

As an ex-career woman and now a step-housewife mom of nine-month-old triplets, I identify with the women Katherine Maclean interviewed. If someone told me five years ago I would voluntarily give up my career to start a family, I would have laughed in their face. Now I am eating my words, as I am at home and loving every minute of it. I did not fulfill knowing I am a huge influence on my children's upbringing. I never felt that same level of fulfillment in my workplace. But, contrary to my young, I wonder if it will still be saying this two years from now.

Georgina Berles, Rego

The main focus of the article was about middle-class and upper-class women. It's not that these moms are selfish. It's that this generation has a media-driven obsession with unobtainable perfection. The perfect house, two cars, two kids, two incomes. Perfect neighbourhood. High tech, high definition, high-speed. What is the matrix with making yourself happy and cherishing it as one thing we keep pushing away? Quality time. Your kids should be more important than your boss and your social standing.

Nicolea Berles, Cambridge Ont.

As a young university student, I'm already feeling the pressure beginning to form. My female friends are starting to split between those who want children early, foregoing



Further education, and those who want a career. Why can't we do both? I am passionate about what I am doing, and do not want to sacrifice a fulfilling career. It is what I live, what makes my day bright. But someday I would like to have children and be there to watch them grow up. Where do our values really lie?

Nicolea Berles, Cambridge Ont.

What infuriated me most about Katherine Maclean's article was not so much the lack of fair reporting, but the use of the term "double-barrelled households." We have chosen to live in modern one- or three-bedroom houses, and, though we may not have landscaped lawns, our yards are neat and tidy.

#### Class wars | Do the struggles of wealthy families matter?

In our profile on millionaires' homes with the kids' parties-over-meatloaf, some readers accused us of elitism and of ignoring where the real hardship lies. "By talking to parents who struggle to make ends meet the week before pay cheque day," writes Vicki Hunter of Victoria, "Not those who are choosing whether to compromise their high-waters budgets."

We live here for a variety of reasons, certainly because when we decided to have children we knew we would have to make sacrifices if we wanted to raise them ourselves. We find full fulfillment not from career or material possessions, but from the relationships we are building.

Chantal Stoltz-Fabrizio, Concord

A woman can have both a career—if the husband supports spouse.

George Daniels, Winnipeg

#### History done right

I can't remember a more inspiring piece in *Maclean's* than John Ralston Saul's "Two forgotten passions" (*Issue*, March 15). Saul has reminded us about the meaning and some of the vital roots of Canadianism. And he has left me even prouder to be Canadian—which I don't think was possible.

Peter Hopkins, Guelph Ont.

John Ralston Saul's essay makes Canadian history unforgettable. Oh, that our history would be taught this way in schools.

Glen Higgins, Saskatoon Ont.

#### Faulty logic

I understand that no amount of evidence or logic will ever persuade Barbara Ansel to a more balanced view of the conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis ("A plague without a cure," *Cover*, March 15). However, I feel obliged to speak our anger for equating criticism of the government of Israel with anti-Semitism. Such denunciations of logic are a crude attempt to stifle legitimate criticism, and violate our freedom of expression. I oppose Canadian government policy in a number of areas, but this doesn't make me anti-Canadian. We would be better friends to Israel if we gave honest criticism about Israel policy, rather than blindly support whatever acts its current administration undertakes. Of course, the Palestinians also deserve to receive our most frank and unambiguous criticism regarding their actions.

Carl Skellie, Surrey B.C.

#### School attire

The Quebec Court of Appeal was correct in overturning a lower court judgment that allowed the Montreal Sikh student Gurdeep Singh to wear "turban" to school (*Upfront*, *Cover*, March 15). Religion, the constitutional



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danger of bagged 800s, is just one of the five symbols that must be worn. The others are washes hair, comb, iron brazier and special brooch. It is a rare folk who wears all five, especially the prescribed brooch. Even Singh more than likely wears Starfield's underwear! And I am positive he will not be permitted to wear the karpas when he travels by air.

**Lothar Hubert**, professor emeritus, *University of Toronto*

#### Taxpayers duty

Although I don't pretend to understand all of the logic in the March 15 column "The looming storm" concerning higher commodity prices, I feel I should comment on a statement by Donald Coss. He argues that Canadian labour costs are lower because of "the cheap Canadian dollar and government-financed health care." I think the perception that the government-financed health care is erroneous. We do not refer to government-financed health care as *crisis medicine* or *spare weapons systems*. These things are financed by the taxpayers, and priorities are set by the citizens when we vote in a government.

**Nick Houston**, *London, Ont.*

#### Our man Green

I just read "Greenery in Greenland?" (Profile, March 15). It's about time someone said something positive about our Ottawa boy. Seven years ago, when I was a young skier pining on the verge of dropping out of high school, I was shy, unpopular and socially inept—now a very happy kid. The only thing I looked forward to was the call to volunteer on Team's show. It was the only place I felt useful and needed. Tom always treated us with respect, he's a great guy and deserves the world. He'll never know how he touched my life, but I owe him the world's biggest thank you.

**Omer Ward**, *Ottawa*

The 15 minutes of fame is done and Hollywood's shadow has probably passed every round of potential and cash out of the guy and that's about it. He should gather up what he has and come back here and retire in relative comfort and get away from the volcano. Too bad really.

**Tom Gatten**, *Ottawa*

**“The perception government finances health care is erroneous. These things are financed by taxpayers.”**



He should gather up what he has, come back home and get away from the Hollywood volcano.

What misuse of print and coverage over the years for this moron. It's very sad that this is all Canada has to offer.

**John Oke**, *Calgary*

As a late-blooming fan of Tom Green, I was pleased to see that he was "down and out in Beverly Hills," and that, maybe, the best way to come. I haven't seen all of his stunts, but the dead raccoon for Mike Bullard makes me grin. I don't know why.

**Nick Steyn**, *St. John's, Nfld.*

#### Cinéma-vérité?

Brian D. Johnson's critique of Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* was the most appalling thing I have ever read in your magazine ("The power and the glory," Cover, March 8). I don't consider myself a "right-wing Christian," but after reading that, I feel the need to defend.

Calling the movie "hardly secular," saying that Christians should be offended by the movie, that "Gibson is using cruelty to induce a spiritual response," and commenting that the movie involves a kind of voyeurism that pornography does, are the most absurd criticisms. How much Christ suffered is always forgotten, and the movie was realistic in terms of his violence. The fact

is, Christ's body was reduced to a bloody mess of "raw physical suffering" and that is the most human aspect to his death and should not be forgotten.

**Cathy Finnerty**, *Ottawa*

Based on the success of Mel Gibson's *Passion*, one might expect a sequel. Certainly, the Spanish language will be a suitable topic, filled as it is with gruesome violence. The facts are also in less dispute.

**Hugh Peters**, *Aurora, Ont.*

Jesus turned the world upside down some 2000 years ago, and he's doing it today. If that is not a testimony of his power I don't know what is.

**Glenn Smith**, *Toronto*

#### Quick question

In your letter to the editor for the March 15 issue, Jake Tash calls Paul Martin our best prime minister since Pierre Trudeau ("The man missing of scandal"). A few lines later the clip is a handgun military and a defective terrorism system to being some of the real issues that threaten Canada. Just who does Mr. Tash think was running the country when the disarmament and de-militarization of the Canadian military began and the foundations of our present immigration system were erected?

**A. G. Fitzpatrick**, *Ottawa*



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## A PERSONAL VISION

For photojournalist Roger Lemoyne, his career is "not really a job." Rather it's a journey on which he observes everyday life in places ruled by the force of historic events.

"I think everything I work on has something to do with human rights and social justice," says Lemoyne, a Montreal-based freelance photographer and contributor to *Macleans*'s "I go after stories I can connect with."

This month, Lemoyne's work stood out among nearly 26,000 photographs in the Missouri School of Journalism's 61st Annual Pictures of the Year International Competition, one of the world's most prestigious photojournal-

ism contests. He was named third in the Magazine Photographer of the Year category for his portfolio and took second place in the Spot News category.

His winning submissions included a look at life behind the West Bank's security walls (see more at [www.macleans.ca](http://www.macleans.ca)). It also contained images from his first photo essay for *Macleans*, documenting the aftermath of the genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia, where nearly 8,000 men and boys were killed.

Lemoyne was recently awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Alcasia Foundation for World Peace to continue his decade-long work photographing war-affected children. By publishing the insightful work of photographers like Lemoyne, *Macleans* illustrates a commitment to visual journalism, says Andrew Tolson, the magazine's director of photography. "Documentary photographers show the lives of people as they really are. And Lemoyne is truly among the best," he says.

Help shape what's inside *Macleans*. To register as a member of *Macleans*'s Advisory Panel, go on-line to [www.macleans.ca/webpanel](http://www.macleans.ca/webpanel). For further information about this article, contact: [behindthescenes@macleans.ca](mailto:behindthescenes@macleans.ca).

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## UPFRONT

### Scandal | The show goes on

Two great faces were on the March 18 playbill of the Commons public accounts committee hearings. Star billing in the morning session went to Albus Gagliano, his opera-brother's awareness registering every ounce of the heavy burden he feels he carries because of the so-called sponsorship scandal. Then after lunch, in an evening performance, Auditor General Sheila Fraser offered more of her inimitable combination of professional calm and personal outrage. You could have pulled the main button and still enjoyed the CPAC coverage—but what the two witnesses had to say was worth watching too.

Gagliano, the former public works minister, recently fired from his post as ambassador to Denmark, persecuted himself as a grievously wronged man. He steadfastly denied knowledge of anything seriously wrong in his old department. "A minister does not run his department," he said. "He has neither the time nor the free don't do so." He then went on to testify that he met Chuck Gault, the business director in charge of the sponsorship program, only a few times in a year to discuss generalities. As for the dubious and incomplete paperwork on bills of millions in payments to Liberal-friendly ad agencies, as revealed by Fraser, Gagliano said: "I didn't see it, I didn't ask for it."

Act next after failing to get much satisfaction from the current Liberal figure in the dais, opposition MPs were clearly looking forward to another crack at Fraser. Since she would not doubt be Gagliano's 1-on-1 co-aching choice. After all, Prime Minister Paul Martin himself had said in early



Gagliano claims victim status before a parliamentary committee, while Fraser is still a guest



February, soon after the scandal broke. "There had to be political discretion." So Concern for the MP's Duke Albus set out to give Fraser to see that Gault could have been operating all on his own. "Did Mr. Gault remain that trustworthy to authorize expenditures, to select the agency, to approve the terms of the contract, and to send some payment?" Albus asked. "I understand," Fraser responded, "yes, he did."

Not the answer Albus was looking for. All the more reason for the committee to want to hear from Gault, who has been out of the country as the controversy rages. His lawyer served down a request that he testify on March 25—and didn't propose another date.

JAMES GAGLIANO

### ScoreCard

▼ **Spontaneity**  
True, Paul Martin has not usually through happen-ed party lines in his government jobs, but PM's own bid to favour some "some bid or high water" results provoked a vote, without consultation of his staff, to make and lobby after all, in the PM's

▼ **Obama**  
City council "bars" Toronto Maple Leafs from making new owners at Senators' games, claiming denied royalties had been lost. Senators will be asked to discuss to charity in hopes of shift to local colours before March 25th vote. The Hockey Sheriff

▲ **The French**  
Haitian Obama's leader for his 100th anniversary says French troops, almost 100,000, should be sent to Haiti to help with reconstruction. Many protesters have been seen in French driver gets off easy by saying he thought he was in Haiti to help with reconstruction. Many protesters have been seen in French driver gets off easy by saying he thought he was in Haiti to help with reconstruction.

▼ **Recent prices**  
Homes hit latest record, but even of housing is not, due to the fact who looked out for a Western Canada, Canada's home could afford to pay \$100,000 more. Was found in a house and put in a job as a security guard. A house is a house.

▼ **Great Wall of China**  
May be downgraded to "Great Wall of China's first segment, Yangtze River, starting right at the end of the world is not a wall. Says he couldn't see it while in orbit. He's saying there are many don't say Yangtze River making a return road.





prevailed some priorities to complain they had been duped about the reasons behind high rent premiums.

**INFLATION** Canada's inflation rate fell to a two year low of 0.7 per cent in February. That was before oil prices shot up to over US\$38 a barrel.

**BOARD PLAY** Montreal-based Bombardier Inc. announced a well wish 6,600 new making jobs, mostly in Europe, and close synergies in the wake of the Spanish railway bankruptcies and overcapacity.

Sloppy Manarba Telecom Services Inc. made a bold move to take on big guys Bell Canada and Telus with a surprise \$1.7 billion bid for Toronto based Allstream Corp., a company that provides phone and Internet services to corporate customers.

## CANADA

**NUCLEAR** Ontario's crumbling power generating system is in need of a huge—up to \$40 billion—overhaul, the provincial government said. And the future will almost certainly mean more nuclear power. An independent task force led by former deputy prime minister John Manley recommended upgrading aging nuclear stations and adding as many as five new plants.

**TRAGIC ARE UP** Two sick and elderly patients at Calgary's Foothills Medical Centre were



**BOWLED OVER** *Madeline*, guiding the wicket, took a 2-0 lead in games at the first fall today in Indian track in 34 years track, and the off-winning neighbours with a case of a cinder track.

filled when, instead of sodium chloride, they were given intravenous drips of potassium chloride, a concoction used to execute prisoners. Blamed on at least five other mishaps in Canada, potassium chloride is used in small amounts to lower blood pressure. Calgary administrators said the two

drips were in similar bottles and two doses together on a shelf.

**NAZIS** Ottawa moved to strip the citizenship of an Edmonton man who allegedly lied about his past as a concentration camp guard when he came to Canada in 1969. Josef Farnon, 83, is the second alleged Nazi to be prosecuted in a month. He told reporters this is a case of misrepresentation and that he was not a guard but a prisoner of the Russians.

**POLITICS** Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson made a rare public defence of neo-regal spending in the face of opposition party criticism. Clarkson told a CBC interviewer she partici-

ipated in 908 events last year, which she said was three times as many as her predecessors, that works out to 17 a week.

Former New Brunswick premier Frank McKenna named down the nomination to be the star regional candidate in Paul Martin's Liberal government. He said it was because the two sitting MLAs in the ratings he was in forced to be wanted to continue to serve.

**EXTORTION** Two Vietnamese men were rescued by Montreal police after they said they were abducted outside a *lounge* bar in Toronto, driven to Montreal and beaten for days in an attempt to extort money. One escaped through a window and called police.

**BRIBERY** Eleven immigration officials, including a former administrator of the Immigration and Refugee Board, have been charged with fraud for allegedly offering to fix the outcome of cases in return for bribes.

**WILDLIFE** B.C. environmentalists were outraged that provincial resource officials took it upon themselves to kill six golden eagles in order to save an endangered herd of marmots on Vancouver Island. Protected under treaties, the eagles were *herd* to their death by a deer carcass and shot.

Meanwhile, an Ontario man was arrested and charged with the illegal possession of an alligator after he was caught crossing back into Canada at Windsor, Ont., with four baby alligators inside his jacket.



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ROGERS

## UPFRONT

Mansbridge on the Record



### WHEN SECURITY IS SILLY

To keep our airports safe, do we really need to frisk grannies and toddlers?

**YOU HAVE** to admit someone who keeps their sense of humour while at work, who can make those around them laugh as well as fear someone like that recently in Sydney, N.S. I was getting on a flight to Halifax—one of those small commuter aircraft where they encourage you to leave your baggage on a little cart before you walk up the boarding stairs. I had to take my coat on board such flights, but things got weirdly cramped when the plane took off, which is what they say. So I walked over to the cart and said to the baggage handler, as I pointed to the compartment where my case would be stored: “This will be OK back there, right?”

“Of course,” came the reply, “and besides, I need a new laptop.”

And then, before I could say anything, he added: “But don’t worry, you can buy it back on eBay tomorrow.”

I looked at the other passengers getting on the plane, and they duly reported it to those already on board, so the laughter got a second wave. Which was just what everyone needed after going through the rigors of the security check at the Sydney airport—didn’t the sweetest hot spot in the so-called war on terror?

Here, let me say a few words about some things you can’t discuss while you’re actually in the security line, because if you do, you’re immediately considered to be taking snow-fogged in an orange jumpsuit waiting for your oil squeegee in Guantanamo Bay. You know people are getting agitated, and Sydney is now the shinniest of your prison. Ah, the luggage check is no longer with the adult agents. That means

that after you get your boarding pass, it’s off to a new addition, the luggage X-ray unit, where they have what seems to be better technology than you’ll find in most hospitals. They’re so precise they can apparently tell how many of those little shampoo bottles you lifted from your hotel room. After that, as in the more traditional security checks—including everything but a cavity search. Just off, bit off, it was off, then the full deconstruction of your carry-on bag. Things I’ve taken through some of the toughest security at airports around the world in the last year, including London, Baghdad, Kabul, Tel Aviv, Washington and New York, couldn’t pass the Sydney small test.

I checked it out. Sydney, it turns out, isn’t a rogue operation, in fact, it may be the future. It’s one of the airports where the new equipment and processes designed to make travel safer. [Hard to argue with that, but like a lot of people, I think some common sense has to be involved here, too.]

How many aging grandmothers have you seen having their handbags checked? How many grandmothers are being towed and wheeled after some say-bowling? Sometimes, security does seem like a make-work project. That’s especially true at Toronto’s Pearson airport, where I recently witnessed 11 security people working one line. It was a odd change, no one seemed in a hurry to board here. Is this a Liberal plot to bump up employment numbers before an election?

I appreciate a sense of security at our airports. But isn’t time to get real? Okay, did I go too far? That’ll be a nice 44 tail on the orange jumpsuit, please.

Finally, you’re probably wondering about something I mentioned at the top. The answer is: Yes, I did check to see if my own pants made it to Halifax—and it did.

It must have been approved by eBay. ☐

Michael Sharp is Chief Correspondent of CBC Television News and author of *The National*. To contact him, email [sharpm@cbcnews.ca](mailto:sharpm@cbcnews.ca).

## Pages

**DIED** Mitchell Sharp, 91, long-time federal cabinet minister and Liberal elder statesman, died of cancer in Ottawa. Elected in Winnipeg’s north end, the centrist was a force in federal politics for more than half a century. First elected in 1963, he was an influential figure in the governments of prime ministers Lester B. Pearson and Pierre Trudeau, serving as minister of trade and commerce, finance and external affairs. In the latter role, he forged diplomatic ties with China in the early 1970s. Sharp retired from the Trudeau cabinet in 1978, but in 1993, agreed to become a personal adviser to former prime minister Jean Chrétien for a salary of \$1 a year.



**WON** Nova Scotia skip Mark Doocy, 37, finally beat doctophag, Alberta’s Randy Ferbey, 44, to take the 75th Nations Cup. The victory ended Ferbey’s hope of being the first to win four consecutive Canadian men’s curling championships.

**LONGLISTED** Margaret Atwood, 64, nominated for her fifth novel, *Prize*, and Cash, is the only Canadian among the 20 women authors vying for Britain’s £73,000 Costa Prize for Fiction, to be announced June 1.

**HONOURABLE** Basketball’s Myisha Bell, 34, whose complaint about sponsorship shortcomings ultimately cost VIA head Joël Peltier his job, will be inducted into the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame along with fellow Olympians, sprinter Donovan Bailey, 36, and speed skater Marc Gagnon, 38.

**DIED** Harrison McCain, one of two fledgling brothers from New Brunswick who rose from the farm to become world-scale purveyors—in Harrison’s case, the king of the frozen fry—died in a Boston hospital after a long illness at 78. The McCains transformed sleepy Gloucester, N.B., into the command centre of a \$6-billion empire.

**ENGAGED** Former Quebec premier and Parti Québécois leader Bernard Landry, 67, will take the obligatory shuffle and marry 50s angel actress Chantal Bernard, 57, in June.

# INSECURITY RULES

No nation is exempt from being a target, writes CHARLIE GILLIS

**THE CIRCUMSTANCES** left no room for scrupulous. Canada might have been spared the type of attack that in 10 synchronized blasts transformed Madrid into a cauldron of despair and political anger over the past two weeks. We might even have our status as non-members in the so-called "coalition of the willing" to thank for that mercy, as some critics of the war have suggested. But as Spain's newly

elected government threatened to pull its troops out of Iraq, and its once-pullulent banks dried out yet another bomb-blasted building in Baghdad, any professions of moral virtues would have rung hollow indeed.

This is, as just a mildly, a low point in George W. Bush's war on terrorism. With 302 dead and 1,500 wounded, Spaniards have named him against their U.S. allies, electing a Socialist government that felt no qualms about questioning the justification for the war in Iraq. Their prime minister-designate, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, described the occupation as a "Blast" that undermined the goal of refurbishing the United States, adding that terrorism can't be defeated with "America's military might." Within hours of returning to his office—and to the obvious dismay of the White House—he declared his intention to bring the country's 1,300 troops home unless the United Nations takes command of the mission.

For the Americans, it was more than hideous timing. It was a humiliation, and the frustration among U.S. lawmakers was almost palpable. The attack in Madrid came just three days before the vote that defeated Spain's conservative-leaning government, suggesting they were aimed specifically to drive wedges into the U.S. alliance. One angry congressman accused Spaniards of voting on "appease terrorism," while Bush urged the Americans consisting of Iraq troops to stay "strong and resolute" as Iraq engages its self-government. "I think terrorists will kill innocent life in order to try to get the world to cover," he said.

"They'll kill innocent people to try to shake our will."

The hope, of course, was to shore up support. But the rest of the bomb-torn world seemed more occupied with the specter of more attacks than with the outcome of America's war. France, once the whipping boy of U.S. conservatives for its early opposition to invasion, announced it was investigating threats by Islamic militants, possibly made in response to its legislation banning religious headgear in schools.

"A heavy offensive will take place on behalf of the allies of Osama," said one letter sent in *Le Parisien* newspaper. "We are going to plunge France into terror and violence." In Germany, police squads were dispatched to guard a major computer trade fair in Hanover, while in Britain and across police officers joined up surveillance on the London Underground, searching passengers and reminding them to watch for suspicious-looking packages.

In Canada, Prime Minister Paul Martin took no more comfort in the country's distance from the war than his European counterparts. An appearance in Montreal, he said the country had entered a state of "vigilance" in the wake of the Spanish bombing, mindful perhaps of the 3,000 Canadian troops still filling a highly



Safety is no excuse for Clinton soldiers in Kabul, Spain's Zapatero (left), and French soldiers patrolling the Gare du Nord train station in Paris (right).

visible role in Afghanistan. While the exact meaning of "vigilance" won't clear (Canada did not, for example, officially declare a security alert), officials at Via Rail, the Toronto subway system and Canada-U.S. border crossings all cautioned they were



stepping up random patrols, and security details in major bridges and tunnels.

**PARANOID?** Perhaps. But even before the bombings in Spain, there was no shortage of al-Qaeda-linked attack targets outside

the U.S. The October 2002 night sky bombing in Bali, for example, claimed 203 lives, almost half of them Australian and two Canadian. Last May, suicide bombers in Cambodia carried out a series of attacks aimed at Jews and Spaniards, killing 53. And less than

two years ago, Canada's spy agency, CSIS, handed over to the U.S. an alleged al-Qaeda operative accused in a plot to blow up the U.S. and Israeli embassies in Singapore. Given the precedents, it is not inconceivable that terrorists might strike on Canadian

soil, argues Maria Rostom, director of the Canadian Centre of Intelligence and Security Studies at Carleton University. "It would demonstrate to the world at large that one could attack North America," he says from his office in Ottawa, "that one could strike to close proximity to the United States."

Alan Ball, a Toronto-based security consultant who monitors the terrorist threat in Canada, agrees that the danger is real, though he fears that most Canadians are unaware of the full extent. That's partly due to Ottawa's policy of secrecy; he says that every CSIS or RCMP brief alleging terrorist activity on Canadian soil, there has been denial or reassurance by senior politicians. "These things get fobbed off as farious," says Ball. "But the concerns I have with people

**FOR EVERY csis or RCMP allegation of terrorist activity on Canadian soil, there has been denial or reassurance.**

who know these sorts of things suggest we've had some lucky escapes."

Would that Spain had shared our good fortune—or the benefit of hindsight. As the investigation into the train bombings progressed last week, authorities charged three Moroccans with 190 counts of murder and two Indians with collaborating with a terrorist organization. Among the accused was one man with links to al-Qaeda whose whereabouts Spanish police knew before the blast. According to published reports in Barcelona, a plane hijacker arrested two days after the bombings, was on his way back to Spain and that he was considered to be a "very active terrorist."

It's the kind of revelation that touches off bitter ruminations inside between agencies and political leaders—as it is already doing in Spain. But it's also a warning: it's countries that think they have the terrorists that sit in check. We may be on the edge there. But as we watch the mess unfold in Madrid, and as from surrounding shadowy operations turn to bloody carnage, the caution may be by going out a war zone created by the day.

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## ONE BLOODY WEEK

The guests at Baghdad's Mount Lebanon Hotel didn't stand a chance. On the evening of March 17—three days before the first anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq—a car bomb exploded outside the five-story hotel, demolishing it and an apartment building across the street. Scores were injured and rescue workers found seven dead in the rubble. Intelligence officials quickly blamed the attack on al-Qaeda and the Iraqi al-Qaeda network reportedly sent al-Qaeda its thanks. Military brass, concerned the answer may would incite guerrilla activity, had been on high alert. But in addition to the Baghdad

blast, a suicide bomber blew up a car near a hotel entrance, in southern Iraq, killing three, two American soldiers were killed in Sadr, near Baghdad, in a mortar attack on a logistics base, and two U.S. marines were killed in another mortar attack near the border with Jordan. It was all explosive evidence that, despite American claims about reshaping war, stability is far from secured.

Meanwhile, Pakistani military officials reported that they had overwhelmed al-Qaeda's No. 2 leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, near the Afghanistan border. The traces were meeting force in Pakistan, presumably from al-Qaeda fighters. Al-Zawahiri, an Egyptian-born surgeon, is one of Washington's most-wanted terrorists and carries a \$25 million bounty on his head. His capture would be a major victory in a week of tragic losses.

JON HENRI



# A LOOMING TRAGEDY

Canadian scientists are helping Russia battle the growing scourge of AIDS

**LATE ONE AFTERNOON**, Viagor Solodichin of Mississauga, Ont., finishes up a rather day at the Russian Federal AIDS Centre—a sprawling compound of concrete walls and towers ringed with barbed wire that houses the country of Moscow's AIDS patients. The task this day was simple enough: with a spreadsheet listing 15 types of pharmaceuticals, Solodichin and agency of hospital staff sort of \$150,000 worth of drugs into boxes for shipment to clinics in Abkhaz, Chechnya, Dagestan and Yez, regions where clinical trials have begun under the direction of a team of Canadian scientists. More than a decade after Solodichin moved here to help tackle what was then a small HIV problem, his job



Solodichin (left) is fighting to stem off an AIDS epidemic at the offices of a Moscow group that helps those with HIV.

has become a race: he's now working fast to have these treatments tested and ready before a full-blown AIDS epidemic hits.

When it comes to HIV in Russia, the numbers—and the disputes surrounding them—

say it all. Officially, the country's health ministry reports that 208,000 Russians have HIV. But the head of the ministry's HIV department admits the real figure could be double that, while the top HIV scientist in the ministry believes it should be quadrupled. Either way, Russia's HIV growth rate is among the fastest in the world, surpassing even Africa's. "Witnesser of those figures is right, AIDS in Russia is a looming, massive tragedy," says Solodichin, the 33-year-old project coordinator of the non-profit Canada AIDS Russia Project (CARP), which is currently spearheading a \$2.3-million, three-year initiative to prepare Russian health workers for the epidemic. "It will

some life-or-death decisions with explosive force." His first true showcase at Toronto General Hospital, Carol Major, CARP's research coordinator and a laboratory diagnostic specialist, was for Saldanha's results. Along with an infectious diseases specialist at Toronto's St. Michael's Hospital, an immunodeficiency specialist at Toronto General Hospital, and an epidemiologist at the University of Toronto—as well as dozens of researchers in Russia—Major analyzed Russian HIV infection and the application of various drug combinations. The collective aim is to increase education and improve access to treatment for more than 1 million of patients. "The Russians need to make decisions on how to treat these people, and they need to base those decisions on evidence they've gathered," says Major, also research coordinator for the Ontario HIV Treatment Network, Ontario's largest HIV treatment funding agency. "We're here to show them how to do it. And all that before the government even acknowledges that any such programs will be needed."

HIV's sudden spread in Russia has generated little attention among the country's politicians. Until the late 1990s, Russia was thought to have been spared the scourge of AIDS, which was then sweeping across sub-Saharan Africa. But HIV began to hit when the number of heroin addicts boomed as a result of drug and plentiful needles that flooded in from Central Asia. The disease then began seeping into the mainstream population through unprotected sex. According to Saldanha, Russian leaders proceeded to make the same mistakes that fueled Africa's epidemic: caregivers promoting safe sex and risk reduction for drug addicts were rejected by politicians and Orthodox religious leaders, even as the number of HIV infections started to skyrocket.

Making matters worse, international efforts to help Russia address the emerging disaster came at a time when the government was coping with severe cash problems. Many initiatives—including a US\$ 50-million World

Bank loan offered in 1999—were delayed. Physicians and scientists worried that, with out treatment, at least 100,000 Russians with HIV would require hospitalization by 2007; and by 2015 over one million Russians could die of AIDS—but those worst fears were unheeded.

Vladimir Polovnikov, the mid-spoken director of Russia's federal AIDS centre, was among the first to publicly demand government action. A medical researcher by training, Polovnikov has gathered data on

in 2004. "My worry is that we'll be stacking bodies in the streets before the government finally acts," Polovnikov told Saldanha at the clinic where he works alongside Saldanha.

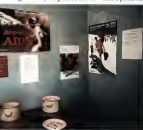
The two began their partnership in 2001 after Saldanha had spent six years campaigning across Russia to introduce HIV and AIDS control models based on Canadian approaches. At the suggestion of Russian health officials, Saldanha eventually decided to pursue the idea of linking Canadian

AIDS control experts with Polovnikov's research team. "Numerous officials told us they would only consider adopting the Canadian approach as we were endorsing it," Dr. Polovnikov approved of them," Saldanha explains. "When we asked him to get involved, he immediately went work together to establish clinical trials to demonstrate to the government that Canadian methods

are sound and appropriate."

With Polovnikov on board, Saldanha persuaded the Canadian International Development Agency to rethink the three-year project linking CARP with the Russian Federal AIDS Centre, the Russian ministry of health's HIV/AIDS department, and a private Russian state profit group called AIDS InfoNews. The core focus of the project was to build a consensus among Russian officials on "best practice guidelines" for HIV clinical care, epidemiological surveillance and laboratory procedures. As well, Russian physicians and researchers will gain experience evaluating HIV and AIDS patients under the guidance of Canadian experts. At the Russian Federal AIDS Centre, Saldanha notes with pride, that many patients are now getting treatment thanks to the Canadian effort.

But whether the program can succeed remains to be seen. "Getting the Russian government to buy into this is as hard as convincing the United States to confront the crisis remains the challenge," Saldanha says. "To succeed, we may have to persuade a lot of officials that this was all theoretical in the first place."



A needle exchange room at a hospital, much of the increase in HIV is due to drug use.

HIV infections across Russia since 1982. Saldanha, he has built Russia's only database charting the scale and nature of the burgeoning epidemic, in the process creating a powerful tool to challenge dubious claims by government figures and political opponents.

**'GETTING the Russian government to buy into this is as hard as confronting the crisis remains the challenge'**

When Russian President Vladimir Putin recognized AIDS as a national concern in his annual address to the nation last year, many people credited Polovnikov for the symbolic push forward. So far, though, confronting the plague remains a low priority for the Putin government, which has awarded a mere \$6 million for HIV control

# NORTEL TRIPS AGAIN

Mysterious warnings and suspensions leave investors fearing the worst

FOR ONE thing is for sure, the drama was back. Moreover, perhaps than the Telecom 35 minutes that had killed the last stock buying frenzy, but all of it was taking away in the old RSI. They, in a quick run of three trading days, North American Corp. since again shook the investing world. North America's largest manufacturer of telephone equipment and Canada's largest stock market portfolio announced it would be delaying a key regulatory filing in the U.S. and returning to 2003 earnings. A few days later, it suspended—

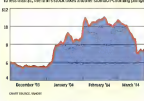
with joy and extremely little explanation—chief financial officer Douglas Bentley and controller Michael Gagliardi. That was the shock playing 18 percent in a matter of days. The company's stock price had fallen 18 percent in the last two weeks.

But then, in January, it became caught up in the old hype. Analysts pushed the company's stock price up 18 percent in the last two weeks. Analysts pushed the company's stock price up 18 percent in the last two weeks. Analysts pushed the company's stock price up 18 percent in the last two weeks.

The stock's collapse, combined with the WHF of potential scandal, is threatening to undo much of CEO Frank D'Amico's cleanup work. North America's largest manufacturer of telephone equipment and Canada's largest stock market portfolio announced it would be delaying a key regulatory filing in the U.S. and returning to 2003 earnings. A few days later, it suspended—

## HIGH-TECH HEARTBREAKER

Two years after investors watched their Nortel shares drop from \$225 to less than \$1, the firm's stock takes another stomach-churning plunge



SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

October 2002. But since then the telecom giant has been slowly climbing out of its hole. It shed nearly two-thirds of its workforce, signed a big Internet deal with Verizon in the U.S., and has been growing a healthy rate, analysts say, at about 10 percent a year.

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to be extremely charitable toward Nortel's boss. He feels the restoration probably has more to do with D'Amico's desire to appear ultra-sensible than a real balance-sheet problem. "If Martha Stewart can get things for \$20,000 back," says Healy, "then D'Amico's going to want everything equally clean."

Still, it is highly unusual to suspend both the CFO and controller, a corporate key figure and chief accountant, and to delay a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filing. And D'Amico, who was Nortel's CFO himself during the big crash in 2001, has had to do an about

face, on Jan. 28, he signed off on the fourth-quarter results that saw Nortel post its first (US\$732 million) annual profit in six years. And now he's saying, "whoops?"

The accounting mystery is currently in the hands of an external law firm and internal auditors, and is not expected to be resolved for weeks. Word is some big stock sales is that the restoration is about "some cash items," which can mean anything or nothing. They may be no big deal. But they are part of a big reporting system—based on which the senior managers awarded themselves US\$180 million in bonuses last year—that is not what today's investors want to hear.

Nortel booster Duncan Stewart, a tech analyst with Toronto-based Tava Capital Corp., is not so sure that it's as simple as that. "When a big company suspends its

two senior accounting officers, "those are red flags," says Stewart. "I can't recall an instance where those flags turned out to be false." Meanwhile, Nortel is digging down Canada's major press with more, and suggesting self-censorship in the case of a suspension of dashed dreams.



**AFTER** Nortel suspended its CFO—with pay and extremely little explanation—the stock fell 18 per cent

# FAT CHANCE

Stressed about trans fat? So are the food giants.

**JOE ST. GEORGE** was fighting trans fat long before fighting trans fat was cool. And he was good at it. It took only the 57-year-old former elevator mechanic a few days to come up with a formula to make his award-winning NoHo ice cream butter, an alternative spread for people allergic to peanuts, free of trans fat. "I set up a little lab in my kitchen," St. George says after five years (much more had suggested concern about trans fat), says St. Denis, president of tiny Mountain Meadows Food Processing Ltd. in Legal, Alta. "I used to have combinations of palm oil and, on my 32nd try, was able to totally remove the partially hydrogenated vegetable oil—the source of trans fat—and produce the exact same taste. It was actually quite easy to do."

St. Denis was well ahead of his time. Trans fat—found when liquid oils are turned into solids, such as shortening, for the purpose of increasing the shelf life of processed food—has become public enemy No. 1 as the grocery store. Numerous studies have linked it to fat-related disease, diabetes and Alzheimer's, and recent legislation in Canada and the U.S. requires large manufacturers to list trans fat content on special nutrition labels by January 2006. The substance isn't banned, but failing to remove the fat, which some nutrition experts call a "toxic killer," could prevent food from being listed. "Packaged goods companies aren't necessarily going to get market share by going trans-fat-free," says Robert Fisher, a professor of marketing at the University of Western Ontario's Richard Ivey School of Business. "But they could lose market share if they don't."

Mountain Meadows Ltd., based in Bathurst, Ont., was one of the first to leave trans fat on the baking menu. After his daughter Lynn suggested he look for several years about removing the substance from dairy aside from the family recipe, company president Harry Voornman finally caved. But it took more than six months to find the right blend. "We initially were told it couldn't be done," says Andrew Voornman, the company's

vice president and Harry's son. "But a group of chemists cracked the code." Voornman Cookies finally began rolling out trans-fat-free products last month. The move gives it a true competitive advantage, but comes at a hefty price tag. The company had to purchase \$500,000 in equipment to blend the new formula, as well as design new packaging, it is still adding up the costs as it worked with research and development.



It took Joe St. George a few days to rid his pea butter of trans fat. So why can't others do it?

The costly solution: 10-per-cent hike in the price of its cookies.

Others are taking up the cause. McCain Foods of Plattsburgh, N.Y., boasts of its trans-fat-free Superminis. Red Bull Co. promises to brew trans-fat-free beer by the end of this year by 2006. "Trans-fat-free" is now a key word in the food industry.

**BY CREATING healthier products, companies are making sure their customers don't have a reason to switch.**

for from baked goods by year's end, and has started to assess the trans fat content of all 5,000 items earned by Loblaw, its supermarket chain. In the wake of a U.S. lawsuit related to trans fat in its Oreo cookies, Kraft Foods Inc. also vows to remove the substance, while Pepsico Inc. says that by July, all of its snack products—including Doritos and On the Border—will be free of trans fat. "It's a very delicate position," says Fisher. "Companies are making sure their customers don't have a reason to switch."

Indeed, those unable to make the shift could be in a lot of trouble. McDonald's Corp. has struggled since September 2003 to remove trans fat from its French fries, meaning to meet deadlines set for early last year. The company's "French fries" are still sold in the U.S. as "French fries," says Ron Christensen, spokesman for

McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Ltd. "Our French fries are famous and we don't want to change their taste in any way." Luckily for the fast-food giant, the new government regulations don't apply to restaurants. At least for now. But exposure to the food business is subject to the whims of consumers—and consumers are increasingly likely to move bad fat from their diets. St. Denis, whose trans fat-free pea butter is now available in 3,000 stores across Canada, is surprised companies are struggling to make the switch. "It's different for every product," he says. "But if I see solid fat by myself, big companies with professional labs should be able to figure it out." "The economic survival could depend on it."

Second, consumers take weeks or, at times, months to complete, whereas new markets can last for years.

Third, if the pullback comes at a time in which interest rates and inflation are low, money growth is strong and the economy is not actually falling apart, then it's likely a correction. Bull markets usually end in a classic of rising inflation, rising interest rates and falling money growth, pushing economic slowdown. The bull market ended.

Fourth, if the pullback comes at a time when new highs on the exchange are outstripping new lows by more than 30 to one, then it could be either a correction or a bear. You can't be sure until you see a



## IS THE BEAR LURKING?

The current stock market turnaround is more likely to be a correction

**WHEN A STOCK MARKET** has climbed for nearly a year without a pullback of more than five per cent, it is, by historical standards, very bullish indeed. According to conventional wisdom, it is ripe for a "correction."

That over-the-shoulder look by North American Wall Street seems to be January perfection clear sailing for the year now seen as the "bulliest correction" since the "overnight" bought position. "This is a trap for fools. The good times are

coming back soon. It's light and prone to being chipped to profit high in the next phase of the bull market."

Do not take the firm's claim as an over-the-shoulder look. When has the firm ever been wrong? It was once to guess? Four years ago, tech investors had been lured to panic. But how do investors take a more correction from a bear market?

First, all bear markets begin as more or less, as far as the stock is concerned. For a high-profile Wall Street spokesman to position a new bear market is not just a matter of ill-mannered, like a belch at a black-tie dinner, but behaviour so irresponsible as shouting "Fire!" in a crowded theatre. It's only when the correction begins to show pain that the firm begins to speak of bear. Four years ago, when the Triple Witching Crash of technology stocks was beginning, the company declared that this was nothing more than a breather that would see trading up after another trading up.

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Fourth, if the pullback comes at a time when new highs on the exchange are outstripping new lows by more than 30 to one, then it could be either a correction or a bear. You can't be sure until you see a

period in which new lows outnumber new highs. If the market doesn't turn around them, a bear has arrived.

Fifth, if the pullback is concentrated among stock groups that have risen fastest during the bull phase while the rest of the market just pines along, it's a correction. If the index is steady across the market, down it likely is a bear.

Six, where are we? To date, the pullback has been erratic, with no signs of panic. In terms of time, the clock, led by Monday, is only eight weeks old, so could the other's correction be a new bear market? It is U.S. Treasury bonds, which were consistently low when the sell-off began, played in the uncertainty of the global economy's recovery, and inflation to drive

correction when the market decided to jump one or two trading sessions in search of new blood for the new year. Healthy markets change horses in midstream.

I've been expecting a pullback by the overvalued stock and assumed that investors generally would then decide that a well-timed enough market would be a good time to take profits. Then, as stocks were declined, a few groups would begin showing signs of relative strength, either by going down less than the market or by climbing modestly. Those groups will be the stars when the bull market returns.

The 1990s bull market was based on a newly optimistic view of an all-encompassing American economy driven by a mix of technology advances. That optimism was dramatically misplaced. There is no such thing as a free lunch. It is 1990s political and financial chaos that is the new normal. What will drive the next bull market is a new kind of economy, a global economy in which Asia—not North America and Europe—leads. So the stocks that will out-

perform will be those that can profit from producing what is needed in the booming economies of China, Taiwan, South Korea and India. Those sectors in your new materials, such as 90, metals, composites, resin and glass, and export finished goods such as computers, clothing and consumer electronics. These economies have lower commodity prices to realize their gains.

The other kind of attractive stock are those diversifying into service sectors, whether from dividend or true diversification. Shares of companies with long records of annual dividend increases have performed well, and they will be among the market leaders when investors realize their loss of faith with stocks. Whenever that may be.

Donald Cope is chairman of Merrill Investment Management in Chicago and of Toronto-based Jones Howard Investments. [donald@jonescope.com](mailto:donald@jonescope.com)

# ACROSS THE GREAT DIVIDE

Unlike Canada, writes JONATHAN GATEHOUSE, the U.S. is taking a hard line against same-sex marriage

**SAGE FIELDS** and her band of Christian soldiers are gearing for battle. The names and photos of their targets—Georgia representatives sitting on the floor above a proposed state constitutional ban on same-sex weddings—have been passed around the campaign room. So have the “I Support Traditional Marriage” stickers with the restroom-door representations of a man and a woman. They’ve huddled in prayer to ask the Lord to open the hearts and change the minds of the opposition. All that remains before the holy

forces of lobbying are unleashed on the Capitol building in downtown Atlanta is the sermon. “Opposing homosexuality is the loving thing to do,” Fields, head of the Christian Coalition of Georgia, says in a hushed soft-Southern drawl. “We don’t affirm people in their sin no matter what.” A big blond clutching a Bible intones “Amen.” Behind her, a woman in a scar-spangled vester nods in vigorous agreement. “There’s no middle ground on this issue,” says Fields. “We’re talking about the decimation of American society. Where does it end? One man marrying two

men? A woman marrying three others?”

On the Tuesday, their numbers are small—just three dozen lay members and preachers from fundamentalist churches in the heart of Georgia’s Bible belt—but their impact is appreciable. All through the morning, legislators rise from their chairs and troop out to the lobby to receive the message. Every year in the state house and arena is up for re-election this November, and polls suggest politicians who ignore the anti-gay marriage forces do so at their own peril. Nationally, two-thirds of Americans are opposed to allowing homosexuals to be the

In Atlanta, protesting the proposed ban on gay weddings





less, a number that climbs even higher in the conservative South and Midwest. (In Canada, where Quebec last week became the third province to legalize gay marriage, just under 50 per cent are opposed.)

The picture of happy same-sex couples exchanging vows in San Francisco, Portland and in small towns in New Mexico and New York state over the last few weeks seem to have changed few minds in the American heartland. Rather, the snags have hardened opinions, and enraged evangelical Christians like Marlon Newman, a retired textile plant manager from Hopedale, south of Atlanta. "It's a slow drive to happen, their way of life will come to an end as we know it," he says during a break from anti-religious bigots. "If the traditional family is destroyed, then the United States, and indeed, the whole Western World is in trouble." His wife Barbara, a retired school teacher, joins a prayerful defense conspiracy at work. "This is all about recognizing that relationships are normal and OK," she says. "It's an attempt to recruit people to their lifestyle."

The fact that Georgie, like 37 other states, already has legislation on the books prohibiting same-sex wedding is of little comfort to the Newmans and their like-minded cronies. "Activist judges overturn laws all the time," they say, only revivifying the court-ratons—both state and federal—will safeguard the institution of marriage. It's an argument that appears to be gaining force. Similar legislative efforts are underway in Alabama, Delaware, Minnesota, Kansas and Kentucky. All told, 35 states are now considering proposals to make it even harder, if not impossible, for gays and lesbians to win legal recognition for their partnerships. George W. Bush has made a federal amendment banning same-sex marriage one of the central planks of his re-election campaign.

More than three decades after the turmoil of the civil rights movement, America again finds itself grappling with uncomfortable questions of minority rights and majority will on a national scale. Legal challenges are piling up. Clergy and mayors who have defied laws and names of same-sex couples face criminal charges. Politicians at all levels of government are enmeshed in the debate. Hardly on the horizon a year ago, same-sex marriage has become the nation's dominant social issue, and for many

## BY THE NUMBERS

**59**

—percentage of Americans who favor amending the constitution to ban gay marriage

**47**

—percentage of Canadians who want Paul Martin to change laws to allow it

**4,037**

—number of same-sex couples wed in San Francisco between Feb. 12 and March 11 (delay)

**733**

—number wed in British Columbia in the last six months of 2003



voices even more important: state legislatures and the federal congress. The backlash against gay rights is growing. Once again, who shall overcome is an open question.

**THIS MAGIC** number in U.S. politics this year is 18. That's how many states are won by margins of six per cent or less in the nation's edge 2000 presidential vote. The current's wisdom is that the 2004 campaign could be just as close. In such a tight political climate, the search for advantage is relentless. So when Bush's team set down over the last year to draw up their election game plan, there was another figure that kept jumping out at them—four million.

That's the number of evangelical Christians that Rep. Rick Warren, the president's chief political strategist, believes voted for the Republicans in 1996, but stayed at home the last time around because they were unmoved by the party's promise of "compassionate conservatism." The White House's headline score

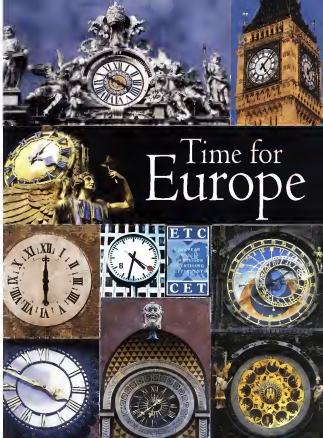
on same-sex marriage is designed to bring these people back into the fold and, if necessary, nudge their dreams, drive a wedge between the Democrats and some of their own religious. War of attrition begins.

"Gay marriage seems to be one of those social issues that helps cement your base support and sends people further into our camp or the other," says Blodgett Cook, a Virginia-based independent political analyst. In an election year where 85 per cent of probable voters have reportedly already made up their minds between Bush and the Democratic challenger, John Kerry, nudge being party faithful has become highly in vogue. And polls suggest that opponents of same-sex union—generally older, less educated and less affluent—are far more likely to cast their ballots than those on the other side—youth, urban, busy.

Most observers agree that an anti-gay marriage amendment to the U.S. Constitution is, at best, a long shot. Bush's proposal would require the approval of a two-thirds majority in both the House and Senate, as well as ratification by at least 38 states. There have only been 10 successful amendments since 1791. And despite the high and steady level of opposition to same-sex weddings, Americans appear to be less comfortable with a bare majority according to most polls—yet the idea of constitutionalizing discrimination in their founding documents.

State constitutions are a different matter. Legislatures in Arkansas, Mississippi, Utah and Wisconsin have agreed to submit anti-same-sex marriage amendments to voters for endorsement in upcoming elections. Gay and lesbians in the U.S. are already denied more than 1,000 rights and protections—including hospital visitation and input on medical treatment—according to heterosexual couples under federal law. The fear of rights advocates is places like Georgia is that the state amendments will go even further, effectively making it illegal for anyone—including private companies—to recognize homosexual relationships by extending things like health and dental benefits to same-sex partners.

Kathy Drennon, the only openly gay member of the Georgia legislature, says the debate in her state is punitive, rather than prescriptive. "Gay marriage has never been



# Time for Europe

# Europe

The experience of a lifetime every time

Europe has a unique, two-fold quality. On the one hand, it is so remarkably diverse, capturing our curiosity and appealing to our sense of adventure. On the other hand, it is old-world familiar and comforting. Travelling in Europe simultaneously inspires feelings of being both at home and somewhere new. Perhaps this explains why Europe appeals to everyone.

Some come to realize a life-long dream inspired by films, music and literature. Music-lovers make pilgrimages to Vienna and Prague. Film enthusiasts flock to Cannes. And how many readers have sought out the hill-top villages and sun-baked fields of southern France after enjoying Peter Mayle's tales of life in Provence? Whatever passion, interest or desire that you possess—whether you are a history lover, architecture buff, romantic or modernist—all paths lead to Europe. And the true delight is in discovering that the reality easily surpasses all expectations.

One of travel's few guarantees is Europe's capacity to provide us with the makings of an unforgettable vacation. In Europe, that means food is involved. Food here isn't just a necessity, it's a way of life, and every country has its own

unique specialties. The food and wine of Italy and France need no introduction. Eastern Europe is the home of hearty comfort food. The Mediterranean is where you'll find some of the finest seafood in the world. In the United Kingdom, fish and chips or a ploughman's lunch go down great with a local beer. If beer is your beverage of choice, take note that Belgium produces more than 400 different varieties!

Part of Europe's charm arises from its history. Over the centuries, divergent cultures and nations have engaged in confrontation, trade and partnership. With its magnificent churches and palaces, its myriad archaeological sites and historic buildings on even the most common of streets, Europe is a living museum. This is a place that loves its past and showcases it beautifully.



A morning stroll through the flower market in the splendid Grand Place in Brussels, Belgium (above) fills the senses. Or, in Austria, you might experience a chance serenade by a passing brass band.

Despite all the changes Europe has undergone, the 33 countries of the European Travel Commission strive to preserve their historic sites and the extraordinary natural beauty of their landscapes. An awesome range of environments and climates provide within a short distance. Even a short itinerary can include vigorous outdoor activities, cultural pursuits and seaside sun-basking.

Europe is an active traveller's paradise. There are hundreds of golf courses in Europe, including St. Andrews in Scotland, the game's birthplace. In Ireland, you'll find some of the world's top courses, while in Portugal and Spain more than 250 beautifully landscaped properties beckon golf enthusiasts from duffers to pros.

Warm Mediterranean waters are perfect for scuba diving. Cyclists too will find that Europe by bike is easily accessible. What could be more enjoyable than cycling past fields of flowers in Germany or windmills in Holland? For the simple pleasure of a nature walk, you'll find well-marked networks of footpaths and right-of-ways just about everywhere, especially in Britain, where the hiking culture is deeply rooted.

For an escape from cold Canadian winter months, try the gentle climate and "warm-season" bargains offered in the Costa del Sol and Algarve. Malta, Cyprus and Turkey are other possibilities for inexpensive, long-stay winter vacations. But some travellers don't want to escape the snow—they want more of it. Winter activities of all types can be found in Switzerland, Austria and the Scandinavian countries.

Culture and history permeate every one of Europe's grand cities. Often, no more than a few steps separate the stately portal of a Gothic cathedral from the stylish, contemporary interior of a jazz bar. It is this abundance of what was and is that lends the European experience such a distinct and delicious flavor.

Beyond the Continent's well-travelled paths and tourist sites, a wealth of alternative destinations awaits you. Consider a "different" destination, like Poland, Romania, Iceland, Estonia, Slovakia or Slovenia.

The following pages provide just a sampling of places in Europe where you are sure to feel that you have somehow embarked on an adventure without leaving familiar territory.



## Ready...Go! SEARS travel

To explore your many travel options, visit the European Travel Commission Web site at [www.VisitEurope.com/Canada](http://www.VisitEurope.com/Canada), or visit one of the member countries' Web sites listed on the back page. Here are two more reasons to go.

Multi-country trips are easy with the Euro (the currency of 25 European countries) by reducing the need to figure out exchange rates and buy new currencies.

Europe's extensive transportation network—air, rail, road, and water—makes getting around a breeze.

In winter, great fires and "smart-season" bargains make a European vacation even more appealing. For travel information, contact Sears Travel at 1-866-FUN SEARS, 1-866-358-7327, [sears@sears.com](mailto:sears@sears.com) or visit one of the more than 300 locations.



In Europe, fall under the spell of a Russian oval pagoda, be seduced by the charms of the Irish (color), or simply contemplate the architectural beauty of the Polish cityscape (below).



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# Ireland

## The Enchanted Emerald Isle

**I**RELAND is a destination you dream about. And now's the time to make that dream a reality. Come see the sights you've heard about—like the Cliffs of Moher, the Giant's Causeway, the Ring of Kerry and the country's famously friendly pubs—while making a few discoveries of your own. Kick up your heels in lively urban centers like Dublin and Belfast or head for picturesque towns like Adare and Cabb in the great game countryside. A vacation in Ireland is an unforgettable adventure.

### Go west for adventure

With a rental car, guidebook and map, Ireland's west coast is yours to explore. Fly into Shannon and head for the Ring of Kerry, a famously scenic route that starts at Kenmare and winds its way around the lush, hilly peninsula through Sneem, Waterville and Cahersiveen. Continue driving along the southern shore of Dingle Bay to Glenties for a view of the Atlantic at Roshbeg.

Lively Killybeggy—Ireland's oldest tourist destination—is your next stop. World-famous for its scenic lake views and national park, this year it's also host to **Killybeggy 250**, a celebration of 250 years as the birthplace of Irish tourism. Kings and queens, authors and composers—they've all paid a visit to this jewel of the southwest. Now it's your turn. Killybeggy 250 festivities begin on March 17 with a St. Patrick's Day parade and end with a run straight through October 2003, with everything from heritage, history and arts festivals to walking tours and sporting events. While in Killybeggy, be sure to take a stroll through Macrae's Horse &

Guides, a period raincoat set on the lush grounds of Killarney National Park.

See King John's Castle, St. Mary's Cathedral and the famous Treaty Stone in Limerick, then continue on to Ennis for a visit to the old abbey. Driving back out to the coast of West Cork, it's time to marvel at the rocky ramparts of the Cliffs of Moher, rising 215 meters above the Atlantic. Further north, spend a night or two in Galway, a fun-loving university town and home to the Galway International Oyster Festival. Pass through Castlebar and Ballina to Sligo, where you'll find a 13th-century

**Walking in County Wicklow will reward you with stunning views like the one overlooking the vibrant Luggale Valley (above). Dublin (right), the cultural heart of Ireland, opened literary giants William Butler Yeats, Oscar Wilde and James Joyce (right). The ruins of Bunratty castle, Dublin, Northern Ireland (below) come to life again.**



Franciscan friary and the burial site of poet William Butler Yeats.

Head up to Donegal for a visit to Donegal Castle and continue into Northern Ireland through Derry, the beautifully walled city on the Emerald Isle, and along the spectacular Antrim Coast. There you can chance your luck crossing the Carrick-a-rede rope bridge and visit the 40,000 stone columns that make up the Giant's Causeway. What created these perfectly formed hexagonal columns—cooling volcanic rock or the Irish giant Finn MacCool? It's up to you to decide.

A driving holiday in Ireland is safe, easy and, best of all, flexible. It's the ultimate in "go as you please" for travellers with a taste for adventure.

### Urban history and culture at its best

Historic cities like Dublin, Belfast, Cork and Derry make for excellent gateway spots all on their own or as a soaring base for day trips.



Dublin's charming Georgian doorways, with their brightly painted doors, have become an icon—and just about every street corner offers a welcoming pub. No wonder this city is such a top draw. See St. Patrick's Cathedral, Trinity College and the Guinness Storehouse before heading to Temple Bar, the city's lively center for dining and nightlife.

And whether you love literature or just a great party, you'll want to check out **Rejoice Dublin 2004**. Author James

Joyce, one of Ireland's most beloved sons, famously set his masterpiece *Ulysses* on a single day in Dublin. That day, June 16, 1904, is now known to millions of readers around the world as **Bloomeday**. One hundred years on, Dublin is pulling out all the stops with a centenary celebration marked by exhibitions, street theater, music programs and family fun. This five-month festival starts on April 1 and runs until Aug. 31. Many events are free, including a street-side Bloomeday brunch on O'Connell St. on June 13. When planning your trip, be sure to visit [www.rejoicedublin2004.com](http://www.rejoicedublin2004.com) for further information about dates, times and venues.

Belfast, capital of Northern Ireland, is easily accessible on foot and must-see sights include Belfast City Hall (built in 1900), the Ulster Museum and Botanic Gardens and St. Anne's Cathedral with its beautiful Romanesque design. At the end of your tour, relax with a locally brewed pint of Caffrey's at the Crown Liquor Saloon, an ornate Victorian pub. Or, by night, Belfast is also home to Ireland's largest international arts festival, the Belfast Festival, held every fall at Queen's.

Cork is Ireland's third-largest city and home to the Guinness Cork Jazz Festival, which over the years has hosted jazz greats from Ella Fitzgerald and Oscar Peterson to Mel Torme and Wynton Marsalis. This year's event takes place Oct. 22-25 at more than 75 venues citywide. For history buffs, local attractions include St. Finbar's Cathedral, a lovely 19th-century structure dedicated to the city's patron saint, and Cork City Gaol, once home to many of Ireland's great patriots.

Londonderry, also known as Derry, is found at the mouth of Lough Foyle in Northern Ireland. The gateway to Ireland's Northwest, it's also the only completely walled city in Ireland. These sturdy walls have never been breached since their construction in 1618, despite three major sieges. Go back in history and walk along these storied walls, then take a cruise along the River Foyle for a completely different perspective on this beautiful city.

### Where to stay

Accommodation in Ireland runs the gamut from B&Bs and farmhouses run by the headmistress of local, to hotels for all budgets. Choose from five-star castle hotels like Ashford or Breckin Castle in every country. Book ahead or use pre-paid vouchers as you go, available from many Canadian tour operators.



### Where to eat

Ireland is famous for its "craic"—that's Irish for a good time! Every restaurant and pub across the country offers its lively welcome to locals and visitors alike. In the major urban centers you'll find a wealth of top restaurants serving international food as well as cozy watering holes.



Offering more traditional fare, small towns along the coast have a big reputation for fresh seafood. And be sure to start every morning with a traditional Irish breakfast including rashers (bacon), hash browns (potatoes) and black Irish pudding topped off with a variety of great Irish soups, stews or potato bread.

### Are you tempted?

For more information visit [www.tourismireland.com](http://www.tourismireland.com) or call Tourism Ireland at 1-800-233-6170. Learn about vacation packages and offers by visiting [www.alternet.org](http://www.alternet.org).

 Tourism Ireland

# Britain

A year of celebration

**T**O APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY OF Britain you must experience the glory of its gardens. Here you will find an astonishing variety ranging from quaint, miniature cottage gardens to grand, manicured estate grounds. Be enchanted by hidden gems that are heavy with fragrance and rich with colour. Be amazed by majestic palaces and castles and their sprawling parks and woodlands. Some gardens may be part of a heritage site, or may have been tended by the same family for generations. The year 2004 marks the bicentenary of the Royal Horticultural Society, so don't miss out on the garden celebrations that will be taking place throughout the year.

## Gardens galore

Whether you are visiting a grand estate that has been cultivated for centuries or gazing upon some of the 3,500 private gardens opened every year by the National Gardens Scheme, you can't fail to be astonished and inspired.

See the beautiful 300-year-old yew trees in Cumbria, be awed by the giant redwood in Angles, or explore a woodland garden famous for its dazzling array of perennials in Hampshire. Lose yourself in a maze of hedges and enjoy the serenity of luscious waterparks. Take a trip to the Eden Project in Cornwall, which allows you to view some of the diverse vegetation from three of the world's different climate zones, or stop at Stourhead's Castle Gardens in Kent and lose

yourself in the cool beauty of its renowned White Garden.

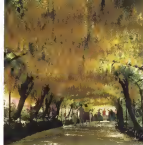
Hampton Court Palace near London is a must-see, and is famous for William III's maze and George III's grapevine, both of which are part of the meticulously groomed formal gardens and surrounded by a deer park of over 240 acres. Bodnant Garden in north Wales is undoubtedly one of Britain's finest gardens. It is a seductive mix of formal and wild spaces with spectacular views across to the rugged mountains of Snowdonia. You could imagine yourself in the movie set of *Rob Roy* at the stunning Drummond Castle Gardens in Perthshire.

When exploring Britain's countryside and villages or strolling through lush, rolling meadows, chat with the locals to discover some of Britain's best kept secrets. You will always find new places to discover.

For more information on the garden celebrations and other events taking place in Britain in 2004, please visit [www.visitbritain.com/classic](http://www.visitbritain.com/classic).

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## Gardens of Wales

Wales, on Britain's western shores, is renowned for its beautiful green countryside. Its gentle climate, influenced by the Gulf Stream, makes Wales a perfect setting for gardens. Many of the gardens often reflect the landscape and history of their location, from the rugged Pembrokeshire coastline in the southwest, across the lakes and moorlands of mid-Wales to mountainous Snowdonia in the north. The rare Snowdon Lily, for instance, is an Arctic alpine plant from the last ice age. Found in mountain crags, it is unique to the Snowdonia National Park.

The last few years have seen a resurgence in the gardens of Wales, whether they are formal gardens, landscaped parklands, railroad woodlands or city parks. Aberglonwy, near Carmarthen, is a unique historical garden whose glass screens are only now being rediscovered. Badminton Garden occupies a terraced hillside above the Vale of Conway. Its famous Schumann arch (above) is a must for visitors at the end of May each year.

Another hidden gem is Dyffryn Gardens near Cardiff, currently being restored to their full Edwardian glory. When you visit some of Wales' grand stately homes, you'll have the house and garden to explore—the intimate terraces and hanging gardens at Powis Castle near Welshpool assemble a peepal villa.

Welsh gardens of past times can be discovered at the Museum of Welsh Life just outside Cardiff. From the formal gardens of the privileged class to the first organic gardens that sustained working families, you will get a fascinating and unique insight into local history.

Just two hours from London's Heathrow Airport and one hour from Manchester Airport, Wales is easy to get to. For more information about gardens and other attractions in Wales, please visit [www.visitbritain.com/classic](http://www.visitbritain.com/classic).



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DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

## On your way to Europe?



Bring along your HP digital camera. Whether you're discovering some of the world's great cities with your children, hiking the countryside with your teenager or reuniting with friends and relatives, a digital camera makes the perfect travel companion. If you don't know it already, digital photography has changed the way people travel, visit and share their memories.

Photography has always enriched travel by encouraging you to look closely at your surroundings and notice life's everyday beauty, unforgettable characters and moments of inspiration.

But digital photography does this and much more. You capture more images but keep only what you like. It's compact, unobtrusive and forgiving. It's easy to use. And, of course, your digital images are easy to store, reference and send anywhere in the world.

You see more, remember more and share more easily. As someone who clearly enjoys seeing the best the world has to offer, you will want to climb to the pinnacle of digital photography with HP equipment. With over 100 products and solutions, there's something for every photographer and every budget. It can do the work for you or let you experiment and create with features once reserved only for experts.

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**HP Photosmart 945**  
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## En route

The best thing about digital photography is that mistakes don't cost you anything. Go ahead and experiment! You can delete what you don't like. So keep your eyes open, be as creative as you wish, enjoy every moment—and shoot away! To help you on your way, try some of these techniques to add power, impact and inspiration to your digital travel photos.



### Capture the moment

Most family photo albums contain at least a few unrequested shots of everyone clumped in front of a noteworthy attraction, hovering because they want to keep moving and enjoy the fun. Sometimes, you do want posed family photos. But try to snap some spontaneous shots while they're talking, holding hands, pointing, shouting with joy or sipping a drink in the shade. Remember why you're taking photos: to capture the experience. And don't worry if a photo just won't do justice to the action around you. All HP Photosmart digital cameras feature video mode with audio, so you can capture the moving memories, too.



### Read the shadows

Watch where the shadows fall on faces, backgrounds and details—try for an angle that either eliminates them or makes a pleasing use of them. You're a few steps ahead with a digital camera such as the HP Photosmart 945. Its Adaptive Light Technology balances lightest relationships digitally, preserving gentle contrasts and softening harsh ones. And the 945's new digital flash actually analyzes the image and automatically brightens dark areas, giving you the effect of fill-flash—without the flash!



### See the light

Lighting is crucial to the mood of your photo and the impact of its subject. For outdoor shots, choose the best time of day if you can. The golden hue of the "magic hours" just before sunset or shortly after sunrise can bring a quiet majesty to your shot of Dutch windmills. For instance, while a shot of colourful crowds in brilliant mid-day sun may take on an aura of pure joy. Inside, stay away from fluorescent lights for most shots and be aware of coloured lampshades.

### Get creative

Try to get an unusual view of a familiar site. An angled shot of a Rodin sculpture might give it an interesting lean. Or you could straighten up the Tower of Pisa and make the ground around it slope. Or give your photo depth by surrounding the subject with windows, arches or other framing devices. Close-up can bring out intriguing patterns and textures. It all depends on your particular take on the subject! The possibilities are even greater when you use an HP Photosmart 945 with its manual overrides and on-camera help wizards that can help you explore some terrific photographic effects.



### Add characters, add personality

Your photos should tell the story of your trip—and great characters are part of every great story. The market vendor, the outgoing restaurateur, the professional dog-walker—these are just some of the people whose personalities may create the flavour of the culture you are visiting. Don't just point and snap, except from a distance—and the 56x total zoom of your HP Photosmart 945 can help with that. To get closer to your subjects, chat with them or buy something from them. If you don't speak their language, try the universal symbol of smiling and raising your camera. Wait for a nod or a sign of agreement. Once you have permission to shoot, another excellent device to portray character is with a black-and-white or sepia shot, choices you can make simply by switching the setting on your HP Photosmart 935 or 735 digital camera.



## Après vacation

Digital photography has also revolutionized what happens after the picture is taken. Processing, storing, referencing, displaying and sharing your images is so much easier that you will spend a lot more time with your memories.



HP colour printers Photosmart 7960 (above) and Photosmart 245 (right) give you the finishing touch.

### Do-it-yourself processing!

A photo inkjet printer such as the HP Photosmart 7960 photo printer (left) coupled with specially formulated photo paper delivers professional quality prints. Special features let you create frame-ready prints, wallet-sized mini-lab prints, 4 x 6 snapshots, and much more. HP even makes portables like the HP Photosmart 245 photo printer (below) if you want to print photos on the go! Photo imaging software that comes with your camera allows you to enhance colours, remove red eye or change the size and positioning of the picture.



### Instant e-mail — or print!

HP's Instant Share technology allows you to present the destination of individual images either to e-mail or directly to print. Share digital images with individuals or entire address lists straight from the camera. With HP Direct Print, you can connect the camera to a printer and print photos without using a PC—on the spot.



### TV slideshow

Set up a slideshow of your travels on the television using an HP camera dock. Family and friends can view your photos in the comfort of your living room instead of huddling over an album.

### Make a DVD archive!

Instead of filling up your hard drive, save all your travel memories to a rewritable DVD. DVDs can hold up to seven times more than a CD—about 15,000 photo-quality pictures. Create digital folders to make it easy to find them. It's easy with your HP Memories Disc Creator software, included with your HP digital camera.

### Make a photo journal!

Turn your holiday photos into a hand-made memory book. Simply insert your digital photos into a word processing document. Scans of tickets, maps, menus and other mementos also make a great addition to the story. Write your commentary around them or underneath—adding an anecdote, perhaps, or making up dialogue. Then print your journal on special card stock or photo paper and bind with ribbon or raffia. Visit the HP Creative Projects area at [www.hp.ca/create](http://www.hp.ca/create) to make it easy.

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Travel by rail is the perfect way to tour Europe. With lots of package and price options to choose from, today's high-speed trains like the Eurostar (right) can whisk you from London to Paris or Brussels quickly and comfortably.

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Noveltywise  
Kevin Rowland  
(Of7) and  
Michael Carr

In the aftermath of Martin Luther King Jr., one might expect that arguments to carry more weight. If anything, however, polls suggest African Americans are even more profoundly opposed to gay marriage than the rest of the population. While the NAACP has come out in force, many black church leaders, like Rev. Wilbur Fanning, one of the organizers of the 1963 March on Washington, have spoken against same-sex unions. Jesse Jackson supports equal protection

"It's put me in the position where I have to sensitize people to the facts of elected life. To explain to them that the Republicans are trying to explain our religious values for political gain," he says. But if the pastor in Saylor is angry, the politician in him recognizes a canny maneuver. Homophobia is America's last acceptable prejudice, he says, and the White House is playing it for all it's worth. "You have to tip your hat to them," Saylor says. "It's a masterful technique."

provided Tennessee Williams with the inspiration for *Big Daddy*, but local attitudes about homosexuality were not always progressive. After Thorelli, coauthor director Georgia Feynman, husband of a two-and-a-half mile down from Adams to try to catch local cops and lobbyists on the fight against the state marriage amendment. Smoking under a rotating down ball, he fields questions for close to an hour. "My kids don't even go to school, so how can they bring an amendment to promote a religious way of looking at marriage?" asks one woman. "Why are we lit lightning, the usually marital backgrounds of some of the politicians who are promoting this legislation?" asks another. Thorelli's responses are calm and measured, warning that pointing out the hypocrisy of their opponents isn't going to be enough. "When someone asks why Georgia Feynman isn't following the lead of other groups and

**THE MEETING** starts with an announcement—anyone who doesn't want to risk having their face splashed across the local paper or on the TV news should move to the back.

**AIR CANADA** 

## INSIGHT VACATIONS

launching a court challenge, he lays his cards on the table. "Because no one thinks we'd win," says Thorndell. "Why not a precedent?"

The gay marriage debate in Canada is often conducted in terms of breaking down the final barriers. In many parts of the U.S., it's about keeping a tentative foothold and hope for the future. Georgia law currently offers not a single protection for gays and lesbians—they can be discriminated against in employment, housing, you name it. "Most people in Georgia don't believe in the separation of church and state," says Thorndell. His most optimistic assessment is that gays and lesbians in the state will eventually win some sort of legal status, someday.

In their pretty Arts and Crafts-style bungalow in northwest Atlanta, Kevin Roush and Michael Cox are showing a visitor their greatest possession—the certificate that proves they are officially wed, until death do them part. They flew out to San Francisco the week after Vancouver's Day to Be the Knot. There are pictures of the pair standing in the rain-soaked streets that circled around City Hall, exchanging rings before a judge in the stands, shaking the deal with a law firm. In each, they wear the ecstatically giddy grins of the newly wed and blissfully happy. "It was the best experience we've ever had," says Cox. "Everywhere you looked there were couples getting married—it was beautiful," adds Roush.

The flamboyant salesman and the architect have been a couple since the day they met, almost 21 years ago. They have matching leather armchairs in front of the television. They finish each other's sentences. Their house is crisscrossed with photos and mementos of a shared life. What they cannot comprehend is why millions of their fellow citizens find their relationship so offensive that they would try to change the constitution to ban it. "Whose God is this?" asks Roush. "The love I have for this man and the joy I give him, my God is like a fist with steel?" Cox explains how he recently saw about the suffragettes, how it has inspired him to fight for his rights. "If America had waited for public opinion to get around, women would still be barefoot and pregnant in the fields, African Americans would still be riding in the back of the bus," the couple "will see us first," he says. But notes, as he looks on these streets, might get the shudders back into

## MRS. AND MRS. IN A GAY MECCA

But, as KEN MACQUEEN notes, B.C. is also the site of fierce opposition to any redefinition of marriage

JANE KATON HAMILTON, a writer and photographer, and her wife, Joy Marchant, a family doctor, are at the dining room table of their Vancouver home. Flipping through their wedding album, sharing memories the way couples do, carrying each other's thoughts across the threshold to companion, the way couples do. It was on June 10 that Ontario changed the law to allow same-sex marriage, in response to a court challenge. Hamilton and Marchant, involved in a similar legal challenge in B.C., caught a red-eye

flight to Toronto for a courthouse marriage later that month—among the first same-sex couples in Canada to do so.

The brides were radiant in their black veils, when you've been a couple for 10 years, why wear white? The veils were to bask as they got, but a phrase such as "I take you to be my lawful wedded wife" strikes its own power. "None of us thought this was something we'd see in our lifetime," says Hamilton. She is 49 and Marchant a 46—old enough to remember the days before 1969 when homosexuality was illegal in Canada. "You get blown away knowing this is real," Marchant says. Adds Hamilton: "It still hits me. You want to see the actual cer-

emony? Vancouver's Catholic arch-diocese excommunicated some of its faithful with the Vancouver Gay Savings Credit Union after the financial institution started an advertising campaign celebrating the gay marriage of its gay and lesbian donors.

Nowhere are the values of the traditional family more ardently guarded than in the province's Fraser Valley Bible belt—a wealthy B.C. region of verdant farms, burgeoning suburbs, conservative politics and orthodox religious views. "It's all about gay marriage now, a legal step now!" asked the headline of a letter to the editor published by the Abbotsford Times, official of the fiery debate the issue has engendered.

A river meander and effective definition of traditional marriage is mounted from the Canadian headquarters of Focus on the Family, located in the valley suburb of Langley. Derek Bogaly, a former provincial Liberal officer in Alberta, is vice president of family policy for the charitable organization, which champions a Bible-based view of the family. It will spend about \$750,000 this spring on a public awareness campaign promoting traditional marriage and that sounds none other than letters to support family values. "This is better: if that controversy has allowed us to talk about the importance, right that marriage is in society," says Bogaly.

The issue has from the Anglican Church since Michael Ingham, bishop of the Vancouver region, diocese of New Westminster, first allowed the blessing of same-sex unions



Katon Hamilton (left) and Marchant (right) have the support of their daughters.

Asked what is the greatest threat to marriage today, he blames no-fault divorce and the legal system's notions of common-law relationships. "We've deviated the role that marriage plays in society," he says. "As a result, we're seeing things like same-sex marriage. It's not the largest and the most controversial in a long line of situations that deviate from marriage."

Focus on the Family will reluctantly intervene this fall in the Supreme Court re-

ference case. Regally, a married father of two young sons, a married case is not a rights issue but a social policy question that should be decided by politicians—or a natural referendum—rather than by a coalition of non-elected judges. "This is an experiment that we would want to be very careful about until we have pretty good evidence that two motions can somehow make a dad," he says, "because the evidence right now says that they can't."

Hamilton and Marchant have both been married before. Joy Marchant was 19, says she was an American boy the first while travelling in Europe. It lasted two years. So subsequent relationships produced two daughters: Sarah, now 26, and Meghan, now 22. Marchant was 28. It lasted seven years. "I think I had feelings about my sexuality, but nothing really strong or I was very good at suppressing it for a very long time." She met Hamilton through her ex-husband, also a writer. "He was very understanding and supported me as I was trying to figure out who I was," says Marchant. "It was painful splitting up. It was scary jumping off the cliff. Scary-raising."

Marchant adopted Hamilton's daughters in 1997, but still the couple wanted the validation of marriage. They're among eight gay and lesbian couples to successfully challenge the marriage laws in B.C. They're also intervenors in the federal government reference on the same-sex marriage issue, before the Supreme Court of Canada this October (page 33). "My mother wants to be married and I don't think there's any reason why they shouldn't," Meghan wrote in a court affidavit. Her sister Sarah added in a court. "How can marriage be sacred when it doesn't even satisfy my own family?"

British Columbia is prodded by the Ontario precedent and its own appeals court ruling—because the second province to legalize same-sex marriage, last July 8 (Quebec became the third last week). Hamilton and Marchant are among several litigants from that case to offer their views as witnesses to gay and lesbian who came from out of penitence to marry in B.C. They're also photographed weddings, becoming part of the vibrant business boom that's springing up over same-sex weddings and receptions.

Most of the weddings have been conventional, if emotional, affairs. Will, there was one with a drag show at the reception. Oh, and a Halloween wedding, as one novel of the brides described as a witch. "That fear factor," says Hamilton, "first could happen in a heterosexualist at a Halloween wedding." Then, of course, there was their own reception. "We did the main thing one first we were," says Hamilton. "So far," says Marchant.

Their wedding ceremony was legalised in B.C. Angus MacIsaac, president of Gay Vancouver's First Marriage, was betrothed

with telephone queries. By the next day, his businessmen, and a small fee for sorry, caused him to post an extensive guide to B.C. weddings on his company Web site. Freight specialists in marketing Vancouver to the international gay market is a demographic that spends an estimated US\$45 billion annually in North America, he says. It's hard to gauge the economic impact that same-sex marriage has had on the province, but he says there's no doubt it has boosted B.C.'s status as a gay-friendly destination.

Both gay-owned and mainstream businesses have stepped up to offer services from honeymoon hotel packages to photography to flowers. Wedding planners, such as Victoria-based Gayer Lesbian Weddings.com or Vancouver's Wedding Fairy, will plan and package the entire event. Freight, a gay man in the 18th year of a "committed relationship," says he and his partner have not seriously considered wedding themselves. "Having the choice here and available in the main thing—whether you do it or not."



## HONEYMOON HEAVEN

**WEDDING WONY** Let these newlyweds in the state capitulation to same-sex unions allow! So after 11 years as couple, Michael Orr, 40, a bank executive, and Thomas Price, a 40-year-old printer at a plastics

company, let the previous year's projected revenues for 2004 are expected to jump 18 per cent over 2003, or roughly \$550 million.

Enter the Ontario Court of Appeal, which legalized same-sex marriage last June. The appeal in Hedges falls was that, among the 1,112 marriage licenses issued last year, not just to same-sex couples (65 of them American), but other newlyweds, gays spent money on hotels, delivery, wedding planners, booze and the city's fancy attractions, because it's a popular place for dinner and theatre. Besides Mags's over-the-top marriages, some sex couples are drawn by the open-air reception given by people like Mr. Orr. Karen Hedges, the United Church minister at the two hours chapel, "don't put me on this earth to judge you for your small conversion," says Hedges. "All that's behind closed doors."

The wedding began with a CD of quiet classical music. Orr and Price held hands as they marched down the aisle. Each man shed a tear or two as they exchanged vows and rings. "I now pronounce you united in marriage," declared Hedges. Orr and Price, who'd been together for 11 years, said that while Hedges won't recognize the marriage, Orr's employer won't treat Orr, Orr's boss has no choice and refuse his health insurance premiums by 21 per cent. "Change is coming," says Orr. "I get that."

DAVID HANAUER

**THE PLAN** for the Hamilton/Massachusetts was to create their vows and to celebrate their union with friends and family. "We wanted elegance, we wanted class. We wanted camp," says Hamilton. They wanted men to dress. She poses to a photo of the wedding party—including author and CBC golf host, Bill Richardson—complimenting in wedding clothes. "We ended up with 17 people in our wedding party," says Hamilton, "including male, two women, and our daughter gave us away." The couple wore suits, the guests wore wedding gowns. Some family showed up, says Hamilton. "Some boys," says Hamilton, "which is sad. I think it was very touching and moving. They might have had their view about it if they'd made the wrong."

"They're still flipping through the album when they're brought up short by the same question asked the vice-president of Focus on the Family: what is the biggest threat to marriage today?"

They discuss divorce rates for a moment and the pressures of everyday life. Then they stop, not begging the question. "Under a divorce to marriage," says Hamilton. "I don't actually think I understand divorce," says her wife. "I think it's proven itself to be a good ending." And they smile, the way some couples do.

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## TELL IT TO THE COURT

Canadian politicians ask the judges to decide

**TRYING** to decide straight talk from politicians on gay marriage can be tricky. Prime Minister Paul Martin looks painfully uncomfortable when the subject arises, for more so than he does when asked about, say, political ethics. "I believe fundamentally that governments cannot discriminate on a question of rights," Martin has said on the matter. "But what we are doing with here is every long tradition, a tradition that goes back well before the common law, on which opinion in Canada is very badly divided." Not exactly a ringing endorsement of same-sex marriage, but not backing away from following either. He criticized the bill to broaden the definition of marriage to include same-sex unions from Prime Minister Martin's position that he's pressing ahead with—but he's open to other ideas too.

That argument shows in the way he changed the Liberal strategy on marriage to seek to the Supreme Court of Canada. Chief Justice's so-called reference—a request for an opinion from the judges before the government would—was limited to asking the court to confirm that the proposed law to let gay and lesbian couples marry was constitutional. Most legal experts viewed this as a slam dunk. After all, the new legislation merely reflects what courts in Ontario and British Columbia had already ruled—the law allowing same-sex marriage violated the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. But Martin added another question: if the traditional requirement that a marriage be between a man and a woman consistent with the Charter?

It amounts to asking the Supreme Court to refuse, or support, the



Ontario and B.C. court decisions

The court will hear arguments on the reference for three days early in October, and could take several months to issue its opinion.

University of British Columbia law professor William Black says it would be "very surprising" if Ottawa doesn't get approval for its proposed changes to the definition of marriage. And chances are the court will also decide the old definition is violation of the Charter, though there is an outside possibility it could find that the traditional definition is constitutional. "Adding that question does introduce some elements of uncertainty," Black allows. Still, he would say that courts in Canada, unlike those in the U.S., have a track record of extending equality protections to gay and lesbians. "This has gone well beyond anything in the U.S.," he said. "The U.S. only recently struck down sodomy laws, which happened three decades ago in Canada."

While there are many parallels between the same-sex debates in both countries, there are also philosophical differences that go so far as to create two quite different political traditions. "The issue is argued mostly in terms of individual liberty in the U.S.," said one federal government lawyer working on the reference file. "The key concept in Canada is equality." Will the different approaches of the two nations' governments

Ontario paved the way for same-sex marriages

lead to the same conclusion? Black suggests that's what happened in landmark court battles over abortion, where in the U.S. constitutional women's liberty and privacy were emphasized, while in Canada the issue was the equality of women as a group—but the practical outcome was similar.

There is a big difference, though, at least in the avenues open to politicians. President George W. Bush is left with the nearly impossible task of passing a constitutional amendment to strip courts once and for all from issuing gay marriage. But any Canadian prime minister could revoke the "non-binding declaration," which allows Parliament or provincial legislatures to pass laws that violate Charter protections of fundamental rights. Respecting to the ultimate power, though, is viewed as shaky, especially since its main use so far was by Quebec to institute restrictive language laws from having performed in the courts.

Even Stephen Harper, who at week's end was the heavily favored candidate for Conservative leader, deflects questions about whether he would go that far to prevent same-sex marriage. Harper is all for Parliament passing a law to uphold the traditional definition—but on using the court's sword to strike to make it stick, he would give a clear pass or no. Ultimately, that issue may prove to be more comfortable for him than it is for Martin—or just about any politician who wades into this combustible matter of sex, rights and religion.

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# STRESSED? TRY LAVENDER

Life in the West is relatively easy, yet we're constantly told otherwise

**THE OTHER DAY,** I lit an aromatherapy candle that someone had given me for Christmas. Then I waited patiently in the bathtub for do-something to occur. Or, at least, to notice the difference between lying in a bathtub with nothing in my nose but the fragrance of eucalyptus and eucalyptus, and lying in a bathtub with the therapeutic smell of lavender. So... time passed. I got hot and ran an older water. Hummed a ditty. Thought about the fact that I had to get the oil changed in my car. Wondered what to make for

dinner. Contemplated a movie I'd just seen. And still, no difference. The same way that I do when I'm at the bath with muddy soaps of eucalyptus and eucalyptus. At that point, my four-year-old son came in and covered his face inside the tub, and the candle was extinguished and forgotten.

So I conclude from that that aromatherapy is a subtle science best taken at heart?

"Ah!" the reader of the lavender-scented candle might argue, "because you were not truly stressed out!" Well, that's true. I do not suffer from the kind of stress that someone in Baghdad or Madrid is probably suffering from at the moment. Nobody dear to me is gravely ill. I'm not on the verge of poverty. I don't have crushes any more.

But, in fact, I'm feeling any of those generally stressful predicaments, I doubt that I would be running down to buy aromatherapy candles, or if my sister hangs on the balance between the social world of expatriate buildings and the calming world of lavender. This is the paradox of the de-stressing industry, by which I mean yoga, massage, yoga, candles, lotions, perfumes and pills, all packaged as treatments for stress.

The industry has grown to gargantuan proportions during the past few decades, which have been, on the whole, the least stressful times in the past 100 years. I don't suppose there were many scented candles in use during the world wars, and nobody could afford to go to Aveda's fitness classes. Raychay Ray for a hot stone massage during the Great Depression. The chill right government seems to have come and gone without anyone taking antidepressants. Outbreaks of panic and stress were some-

how lived through without yoga mats and meditation. So, why now? Why are we acting as if stress is especially tough? It's as if we have to convince ourselves that, in spite of our good fortune, life is still—if not hell, then certainly hell, and only real gods and their will make us competent enough to face the challenges.

This strangely like some of stress's appeal taken up with huge enthusiasm by Myra Blyth, former executive editor of *Fortune* and past editor-in-chief of *Los Angeles Journal*. She has just written a book, *Democratizing Women's Anger*, including the ones she managed, for manipulating readers—"the most fortunate women in the world"—into believing that their lives are miserable. "Stress! Stress! Stress!" scream the cowards," Blyth notes in *Give Stress: How the Women of Middle East Unhappiness and Liberation to the Women of America*, and yet they don't stress real stress. They stress "the all purpose, overwhelming factor Men

Marshall's Lower East Side, with several children underfoot and no grasp of English. "Frankly," Blyth writes, "I don't know how they did it without aromatherapy and Zoloft."

This is great stuff. There is nothing quite so delicious as an industry under confinement, in essence, that it's all a kind of crap. Mind you, I have no idea what it has to do with the "liberalism" of the book's subtitle, except insofar as Blyth blames the liberal media elite for pushing a view of women as victims. But if you'll permit me to toss aside that perfidious schism, I can certainly make hay with her confusion.

Women's magazines rarely deal with issues that genuinely cause their readers' stress, like finance, Blyth admits, "because that's a problem that cannot be solved by taking a hot bath." The trick is to fill your magazine pages with simple problems that have simple solutions, preferably ones in harmony with your advertisers. If you come up with 10 stress-busting techniques, and one of them involves the kinds of products that companies wish to push in your pages, then you have yourself a win-win situation. "I can write up fast-money, honey," writes Blyth. "Stress sells. It sells self-indulgence, which in turn sells everything from baby magazines to body creams. Stress is today's only four-letter, all-purpose affliction from which no woman is immune."

Think of how it can be consumed. Holiday stress. Wedding stress. Travel stress. Work stress. Home stress. Shopping stress. These can all be packaged into articles and ads, and then targeted for treatment with products. Call it Retail Therapy. But what about real stress? I haven't been a scientist recently in death anxiety or bankruptcy stress, have I? What do you call getting lost over a track? Would that fall into the category of travel stress? Real stress goes up being given special medical care, like post-traumatic stress disorder. We have to think a progressively more hyperbolic ladder just to signify something more challenging



than feeling out about Christmas dinner.

Another book out this month, called *The Money Myth*, by Susan Douglas and Meredith Michaels, seems to have fallen under the spell of this stress fallacy. The authors, both American academics with children (Douglas has one, and Michaels, five), argue that motherhood is harder and more stressful now than it was in the 1950s, because the "standards of good motherhood are really over the top. And they've gone through the roof at the same time that there has been a real decline in leisure time." Thanks to Marshall McLuhan, the educational myth under the original baby food business, good mothers have far more to deal with, although her perfection is much, much less than previous generations. And guess

what this counsel—it rhymes with stress.

I actually had to read the first chapter of *The Money Myth* twice, because I could not make sense of the argument. I will call it, if truth be told, Douglas and Michaels dub the perfectionism they see out there in the world "the new motherhood," and give the following example: "It is no longer okay, so it was even during the heyday of Jane Grey, to let your kids watch the news on television, tell them to stop hugging you and go outside and play, or, God forbid, serve them something like Tang, over the preferred beverages of the armchair, for breakfast."

No? Oh dear, I guess I've been parenting wrong. But what do they mean? Kids and teens in parenting and the generation, over-representing the mothers we do and

don't. There is nothing where every now and then about raising a family now than 20 or 30 years ago. Indeed, using modern to have to walk any kids to school myself, so I worry about whether there is too much sugar in that diet. I would still maintain that it is a lot easier for me to deal with two children, raised as I am by my husband and by children, than it was for my mother to soldier along on her own with five little ones, my father not being expected, as a man, to do so much as change diapers. Don't get me wrong. I am not suggesting that my mother was more miserable than I am. I am not miserable, and neither was she. She was just getting on with life. Apparently that's hard to do these days without lighting a lavender candle.



# CANADIAN CLUB

The community isn't huge, but the Canuck influence is everywhere in Hong Kong

**TINNE CHOW** of the South China Morning Post is telling me about a restaurant called Cui-de-Sac. It's closer to fame! "It has," she teases, "the best posture in Hong Kong."

Well—that must be a very short sentence in the Yellow Pages. But on my first trip to this British colony (named—yes—Chinese-speak-ville), I am finding a surprising amount of Canada. Almost everywhere, in fact. I admit it's been difficult to start up a discussion about the NHL—not surprising, considering the near 24-hour string of table tennis and Beto football here. But I never saw a Chinese kid in a Leafs jersey carrying a hockey stick down a street in the Happy Valley district, nor far from a store called Canada Pano Co. (its owner apparently emigrated to the Great White North).

There's also Sunday Communistism call phone engine, run by a couple of Canadians. There's Terence Koo, the kid who serves me espresso at the Starbucks down by the Star Ferry pier, who studied engineering in the University of Toronto. And there's Rangi Wu, manager of the Koo Club, Hong Kong's most prestigious private members' club. He left me puzzled by that he went to school in Coquitlam, B.C. And there's Terence Chow. She's the only reason the Koo Club let me in to hang with Chow's *Morning Post's* Hilda Hopper, visiting short gossip entertainment stars for her column in Hong Kong's biggest English-language daily, keeping tabs on the city's movie stars and glittering tycoons. Not a whole lot of acquaintances growing up in High River, Alta., surely.

Chow maybe isn't remembered by sleep-eyed West Coasters for her stint co-hosting a blunk and you-messed-it CBC Television British Columbia series called *Lunar Land*. Lunar Land seems far away now. "Go into the train, the restaurant, the cinema," Chow says. "Meet the boys."

But how can you keep a girl on the firm when, at age 28, she's hobnobbing with the



Some restaurants in the region serve possum, and many citizens have studied in Canada.

Ikun of Chow Yau-Pin, Jackie Chan and Michelle Yeoh? Chow has also moved to the states, in a new program for Hong Kong's KTV (television called The Work. And she has a third gig, producing content for outdoor video billboards. Then, in a nutshell, is Hong Kong—the big time, where time is precious.

There are signs on the street here that read, "Waiting will be prosecuted." Maybe they just mean waiting. Maybe not. It does seem like the civic philosophy—he who hesitates will be prosecuted by Fate.

She's fast driver, handing out leaflets for the Philippine presidential election. (It's a bizarre yet friendly spectacle, hundreds of Filipino foreign workers spend each weekend camping near an overboard street in an devoted pedestrian walkway near the Admiralty subway station, playing cards and picnicking. Not everybody in Hong Kong gets to be Terence Chow.)

It may seem—particularly from a West Coast viewpoint—that the economic and

joined into a couple of narrow streets in the Central district. It's a rolling street party most Canadian cities could only dream of (or, more likely, cry to that dream). But it's not as excessive as Montreal's wholesale fashion distributor Allan Zernoff, who needed places to accommodate clients. He also wanted to convince a favorite employee to stick around, so he convinced her Los Angeles boyfriend to join him in Hong Kong and start a club for him. The boyfriend proved unimpressed, leaving the girl, and leaving the club onto Zernoff's lap. He took to the business as well, and thanks to his establishment, Lan Kwai Fong has boomed to the point where one Hong Kong resident told me it's crowded to many Hong Kongers, and residents don't like it. Or, in Hong Kong parlance, "Nobody goes there anymore—it's too crowded."

Reminders of Canada here are not restricted to exports and their works. Large parades exist, the most obvious being a not-so-far-away game with lingering effects on tourism. Toronto and Hong Kong both suffered from SARS, and both applied a practice of rolling stones. But Hong Kong had a tougher in all respects. The SARS problem was worse here—more cases, more deaths—and the tourism sector is a scandalous financial mess. Talk about scared—Hong Kong is designated by mainland China as a Special Administrative Region, a name generally reduced to its Chinese name acronym, SAR. Try hanging this kind of (U)mbrella over the neck of the Toronto Board of Trade.

Link Lee, 46, is a guy who knows something about Canada. He studied at the University of Winnipeg and the University of Western Ontario, and the Richard Bay School of Business, a Canadian campus right here in Hong Kong. "Most educated Hong Kongers are like this," he says, "influenced by the West, but with a Chinese heart."

It's preparing to open a chain of fast-food outlets on the Chinese mainland, serving the odd culinary mix of genres of Chinese-style Western food (think pork chops in Chinese sauce). This may require him to study Chinese too. Oddly enough, it's also made him think of Canada. "Hong Kong has English common law," he tells me. "The Chinese system is based on civil law. So when China took over Hong Kong they adopted the system. One country, two systems." One country, two systems? You mean, kind of like... "The laughs. 'Body'."

**THERE** are signs on the street here that read, "Waiting will be prosecuted." It does seem like the civic philosophy—he who hesitates will be prosecuted by Fate.



A Canadian launched a bar nightspot here, and the bar is a popular haunt.

items will be prosecuted by Fate. Even the fastest pedestrian traffic signals claim to. When the light is red they give a electronic beat. But when it's green the sound is like a paucifier gun. "Go-go-go-run-run-run-now-see now!"

This pervasive attitude works reasonably on export Canadian here, wearing away any residual last-back tendencies. Thirty-year-old banker Wendy King once called Toronto home. Could she ever return? "When I'm old," she told me. "It's common refrain among Canadians here."

Canadians are not by any stretch the major export community. Filipinos, for example, are numerous in Hong Kong. And I recently encountered campaign workers in the

cultural swing between Hong Kong and Canada has been rather one-sided. For a Vancouverite like me, coming to Hong Kong is almost an exercise in exploring my civil roots. In the Vancouver suburb of Richmond, it is entirely possible to conduct all year-round business in Cantonese and Mandarin. But even if Canadians are not the most numerous or most visible minority in Hong Kong, we're definitely a presence. Clearly the city that gave us our current Governor General took a lot in trade.

Like Lan Kwai Fong, Hong Kong's business neighborhood. It's a mass of hip clubs





## LIVING DEAD, LOSING LUCK

Sarah Polley stars in a zombie blockbuster and a local hockey gem

IT'S A HOLLYWOOD showdown between zombies and zombies. Or at least that's how it sounded as Sarah Polley talked about the possibility that, on its opening weekend, *Dawn of the Dead* might be the movie to finally knock *The Passion of the Christ* from its No. 1 position at the box office. Both are graphically violent movies about resurrection and nasty violations of the flesh, but they're rather different in tone, to say the least. Polley was on the phone from Los Angeles, where she'd just been through a media whirlwind to promote her starring role in a zombie slayer in *Dawn of the Dead*. "It's really violent,

really shocking," she says. "It's the sickest, most twisted movie I've ever seen." But then she hasn't seen *The Passion of the Christ*, and doesn't intend to. "I don't want to be a part of that—all those snakes crawling out of the woodwork. The best comment I heard about our movie versus *The Passion* is: 'They've got only one guy who comes back from the dead. We've got millions.'"

*Dawn of the Dead* is Polley's directorial debut as a big studio film since she starred in *The Adventures of Bernadette* (1988) at the age of nine. The 25-year-old Canadian actress, known for her outspoken left-wing views, had gotten about doing a Hollywood action movie. "It could have been a piece of crap," she says. "But I had a flourish with zombies since I was a little kid. I did the movie with the ridiculous hope that it would be as intense as it is. And it's over-the-top and cheesy and completely fantastic. I can't believe it's getting released the way it is."

Universal Pictures' remake of George Romero's 1978 plague pic was filmed in Toronto at the height of the SARS crisis—and opened in 2,749 theaters across North America in the weekend. Coincidentally, Polley is starring in another Toronto-made movie about mass hysteria, which is coming out this week. *Luck* is a tale of sports gambling set against the legendary 1972 hockey series between Canada and the Soviet Union. But this quarter \$2-million Canadian gem is being released on a radically different scale. This Friday it opens in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal on a total of just five screens.

It would be hard to find a more proud or amplex of the gulf between Hollywood mainstream and Canadian cinema in the film industry. And as Polley reminds these far-

flung worlds, the irony of the situation is not lost on her. "In Canada," she says, "if people were really given a choice between going to see a movie about hockey and a movie about zombies, they'd probably go see the movie about hockey. But with *Dawn of the Dead* playing on thousands of screens and *Luck* playing on one or two, there is no choice. We keep complaining about how Canadian films aren't accessible and don't put bumps in seats, but these bumps can't even find their way to the seats."

The short Polley talks, the movie wound up becoming. "This shows how obvious it is that we need to produce Canadian films," she says. "Everybody has theories—that we need to bring back the one studio, or make a single film. But the only thing that makes a difference is access. *Stepfather* plays in

several cities. It's amazing that we're allowing ourselves to be that colonized. When the music industry fought for Canadian content quotas, people thought they were crazy, but now we accept it. People in our film industry aren't even willing to fight for it."

**SO IN THIS** issue, what would they be fighting for? In *Luck* another one of those gritty, psychological dramas that Canadiana fans crave for? No. It's a very engaging, admirable movie about a nice guy who digs himself into a pit of... well, okay, it is a story of addiction, about a loser betting against the odds. Hope that his country might be capable of hockey. But it's witty, well-acted and amusing; you root for him every step of the way, although he has less chance of redemption than the Canadian hockey team has of beating the Soviets. And last week *Luck* got lucky—the movie, which was selected by the Toronto International Film Festival, won the top prize for best narrative feature in the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas. Opening on the heels of *The Snow Walker* and *Love, Sex and Giving Birth*—two Canadian crowd pleasers in search



Polley fought to make her character "not the typical girl in her underwear screaming"

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Film | >

of screw—Lack suggests Canadian cinema is on a roll, even if it's playing for pennies.

Lack's Toronto-based writer-director, Peter Wellington, also cast Polley in his sword-wielding first feature, *Jed's So Mean to Josephine* (1996). His passive-aggressive protagonist is Shane (Jude Riley), a frustrated writer with no faith in his own fortune who has a job scripping catalogue descriptions of office furniture. Shane is secretly in love with Margaret (Polley). But as the agencies over-whether to follow a dubious or boyfriend to England, he can't bring himself to show his hand. Instead, he tells her into the trip and agrees to take care of her car.

Shane hangs out with a gang of petty

bluff. "I'm not sure *Gambler's Anonymous* is for gamblers," he says. "It's far worse. It's not as if you were winning all the time and it just got out of hand."

Lack is a fair way buddy movie with well-drawn, warmly fallible characters. Kirby, who makes a likable loser, is supported by Moore-Jenkins, Sergio Di Zio, and Riera (the incorrigible keyboard player on TV's *The Christy Smith Show*), who almost steals the movie. And the constant backdrop of archival footage showing the Canada-Russia series is a nostalgic treat, even if the script falls prey to the odd anachronism (you could "dumbing down" in 1972). My main complaint is that Polley—

an insatiable hunger. And their victims just keep walking the marks of the living dead. After a nightmarish escape from her home, Anne takes refuge in a suburban mall with a rugged band of survivors—a no-nonsense cop (Viggo Mortensen), a mild-mannered TV announcer (Jude Riley), a referred street tough (Michelle Pfeiffer), and his very pregnant Russian wife (Anna Korshakova). In this suburban Eden, as the zombie hordes descend on them in the parking lot, they fight a hell war with a mob of security guarded by a mean redneck (Michael Kelly).

Aside from some jarring scenes of post-lapsed digital footage in the final reel, this first feature is directed with slick, embellishing style by TV commercial ace Zach Snyder. It's better acted, and more fun, than Rosemary's original. But it carries the same unmetabolized zombie movie as the perfect metaphor for a rotten consumer, and a suburban mall is not unlike a temple of the living dead—the characters spend a lot of time at a coffee kiosk called *Havenly Grains* that directly resembles Starbucks. The film is milled with subversive wit. In one outrageous scene, the survivors play a sniper game on the roof, picking off zombies that look like celebrities, including Bart Reynolds and Jay Leno. During Polley's garden of TV anachronism in Los Angeles, an *Aztec Hollywood* host seduces her. "If you could shoot a celebrity who would it be?" Polley was stumped. "I said George Bush would be No. 1. There was this huge silence. Then this pointed finger would at me. I looked at me with these dark eyes. But what kind of question was that?"

Polley says the fight with the film-makers to keep her characters strong—"She's got the typical girl running around in her underwear screaming." No, she's smart, resilient and, as one character puts it, "she's got a smarts on her." It's not looking to see Canada's girl from America hold her own in a brutal horror movie. Despite the title, it's not a tongue-in-cheek parody like *Scream*. The violence is hard core, with zombie heads exploding like pinballs, and some characters are thrown in for good measure. *Parasite* deserves any excuse out of a *horror* standard, but this was fun, not tame. One of the good things about having seen *The Passion of the Christ* is I now feel retrained against movie violence. After Mel Gibson's orgy of surrealism gone, arguing that a mob is the path.



Kirby, with Polley, plays Lack's loser protagonist who bets against the home team

gambler led by Andrew (Jude Riley), a casino writer who is given the task to take risks. Taking the advice of his family, Shane soon makes up a fat debt to a nightclub boss. As the movie comes to a close, Shane is back exploiting his own business. In the Canada-Russia series, the battles become vicious. We know how it will end—and the end by Pearl Henderson—but Wellington keeps the plot's suspense in play right up to the wire.

There's an inimitable charm to watching a character on a streak, either winning or losing. We've seen this before—most recently in *Swimming With Sharks* and *The Cooler*. But Wellington gambles against formula. There's no fairy tale justice or moral victory at stake. Shane starts out winning his side of war to a self-pity group, then calls their

efficiency for most of the film—is reduced to a mere funding device.

In *Down of the Dead*, she's the heroine. Polley plays Ann, a Milwaukee nurse who, after making some odd cases of infection at her hospital, comes home to see her daughter, then her husband, turn into zombies, flesh-eating zombies. For no apparent reason, the world has been overrun by a plague of cannibalistic super-dinosaurs by

**'I'VE HAD** a fixation with zombies since I was a kid," says Polley, calling the film "over-the-top and cheesy and fantastic"



# SURF'S UP... SCORES!

'Ice hockey' is thriving in sunny California, writes DANYLO HAWALESHKA

"OK, THIS GUY SUCKS," a Kiefer Sutherland's blunt take on his man after he whiffs on an after-Champagne, Strohbecker yanks the offending player from the cable-hockey game's transparent surface and hurls his plastic stick close to the breaking point to get better "wood" on the puck. While the Canadian star of the Fox TV drama 24 seems like a mean guy, he's also competitive and determined to beat his opponent, Jon Casser, a fellow Canuck and 24's producer/director. We're upstairs from the show's set, deep in a cavernous, cavernously plush warehouse in the San Fernando Valley. Sutherland's stage of the table-top contest so the

retirement company. In 1999, his on-air team from Santa Monica won the National Hockey League's Brewster championship for adult amateurs, a tournament the NHL runs to play the ice-less product.

Santa Monica's in-line hockey is an unusual game, with drifting steel and pounding air (as a backdrop, NHLers such as Luc Robitaille and Chris Chelios add their power by coming out to play occasionally, as does Canadian comedian Mike Myers. The playing surface is a blacked-off parking lot much larger than a typical rink. The rats are angry blue garbage bins tossed on their sides (a beach tradition). It's free on the beach, no goaltenders, with a ball developed specifically for pavement, called a Z-Ball. It's filled with water and glycerine to take out the bounce. Canadians make up roughly half of the elite players who show up for shunting on weekends. It's an acronym of the influence sports have on the California game in general.

"You'll see—and you are seeing—that American hockey is vastly influenced by all the great Canadian and European players who came and played and then, subsequently, ran and floundered down here," says Faloutser.

The popularity of the outdoor game has driven kids indoors, onto the ice. "Table hockey has become incredibly competitive because the roller hockey guy really knows," says Sutherland, who plays shunting (on ice) Sunday nights. "You'll start seeing pros come out of California in the next 10 or 15 years, and that's a direct result of the involvement of a lot of Canadian players who are raising their children here." In fact, a handful of Californians have already made the pros.

As the game has grown, so too has the need for qualified referees. Here again, a Canadian spreads the gospel: Sutherland's friend Michel Voyer, from Jonquière, Que.



Sutherland and Casser of 24's *Nine* are great ambassadors for the Canadian sport

beach towns, which in California often means the beach. Santa Monica and Pacific Coast are daily acknowledged in the berths of the in-line version of the game. "It's one of the most intense roller hockey I've ever seen," says Casser, 46. In the late 1980s, the game's de-emphasized to make it. Some players were "quads," old-style roller skates with four wheels, recalls Doug Faloutser, who played back then and today still gets out four times a week, both on and off the ice. Faloutser, 52, an Ottawa native who won the Grey Cup as a defensive back with the Roughriders in 1976, now runs his own en-



started the California Referee School in North Hollywood in 1987. "Someone like Michel," says Sutherland, 36, "is incredibly instrumental in helping our hockey here because he knows the game." NHL officials teach at the school, and have helped increase the number of referees in Los Angeles from less than two dozen in the late 1980s, says Voyer, to about 450 today. Voyer, 42, is struck by the sport's dramatic transformation. "We now have Major AAA programs, there's Junior hockey," he says. "We didn't have that before, and now adult hockey has become big business."

Many of California's arenas are state-of-the-art. They're quieter, too, since hockey means and dads generally believe "it's much more civilized," adds Sutherland. "It's much different," adds Casser. "First of all, they don't understand the game as well, so when there's a potential penalty, I'm the only guy in the stands shouting." There are also make with design kids. In Oxnard, about 96 km northwest of Los Angeles, there's a rink with a rink. That's not so unusual for anyone familiar with the West Ed monsoon Mall, but there's still difference here: midway through the second period, teams are forced to switch ends to make it fair on the goaltenders, who struggle with the sun in their eyes. "That's a



Santa Monica is widely acknowledged as the birthplace of the game's in-line version

problem in other sports, but usually not in hockey," laughs Casser, who's seen the ice turn to dust. "It's pretty funny."

Sutherland and Casser are great ambassadors for the game. Sutherland does promotional TV spots for the NHL. Casser is an enthusiastic he keeps a rink and team ball in his office (Sutherland borrowed Casser's stick when the TV crew shot a recent NHL promotional upwind success). When work gets to be too much, Casser has been known to take off, stick in hand, zigzagging through staff in the corridors. "They have no idea what I'm doing or why the hell I'm doing it," he says, "but it's a nice little stress release." During the NHL playoffs, when the Toronto Maple Leafs are playing, there's al-

ways a monitor on the set of 24. The *Antarctica* in the east and west, says Casser, "think we're a little obsessed and a little crazy."

With a core list of do-it-yourselfers on last year, Casser championed a couple of the group gets to buy 15 hockey sticks and one tape to be damaged a net, and the anti-department built in. The electronics even rigged a remote-controlled red light that flashes whenever someone scores. Then cast and crew—experienced or otherwise—did what came naturally. Many of the players were left seething wind by the time the shoot had to resume. The exertion, though, was worth it. "Everybody," says Casser, "got to see a little bit of what we love—our game." Yes, our game, but increasingly theirs, too. **B**

# HELL, NOT HOME

Canadians who returned to the U.S.S.R., felt duped

AT THE height of the Cold War in 1953, the Soviet Union unleashed a propaganda campaign urging expatriates to return to their ancestral homes. Between 3,000 and 15,000 Canadians responded to the emotional appeal before it ended around 1960, with most of them finding themselves trapped, some for the rest of their lives, in a homeland they painfully learned was no longer a home.

Among the victims was Barry Golik. In 1954, Golik, then 56, was enjoying a life of modest prosperity as a crane operator in Toronto, 27 years after leaving his Ukrainian village. But his career in immigration, he was self-conscious about his halting English, while his wife, Rosalia, suffered chronic headaches. Encouraged by the "aim to fit homeland" propaganda and prodded by Soviet diplomats in Ottawa that they could always go back to Canada, the Goliks said their houses, packed their things into 30 meager trunks and left Canada on July 7.

They blundered their way through "It was completely shattered," says Golik's daughter, Nadia, a skilled civil servant now living outside Ottawa. Arrives to return to Canada, Golik discovered it was difficult to eat his nightmare. It took him 17 years.

Others had similar experiences. Valérie Walchuk was 34 when she left Winnipeg with her parents in 1956 to return to the Soviet Union. "It was like going from heaven to hell," she later told Peter Roberts, who served in the Canadian embassy in Moscow in the late 1950s. Another native returnee was Thomas David Lenko, who slipped at the deception. "The image of the first Curran became very real, and I realized we were behind," Lenko's son Jim, who accompanied his father at age 18, told Roberts, who died last November in



Life back home was a nightmare for the Goliks, shown in Ukraine before they first came to Canada.

to the lives of their host country. "I could do nothing for Nadia or for the trouble of other unfortunate who somehow got past the police to see us," Roberts told Madhub's before his death. The final word—yes—belonged to the Russians. In 1957, Soviet foreign minister Andrei Gromyko called the returnees "charismatic content," effectively ending all discussion of their potential return for 15 years. Jim Lenko recalled that Soviet immigration officials told him: "Your bones will rot here. You'll never go back."

Fluency in English eventually landed Jim, Nadia and Valérie good jobs as interpreter and translator that they remained outsiders. "We spoke with accents," says Nadia. "We were always foreigners." In 1972, Nadia, Jim and their Soviet spouses forced their way into the Canadian embassy and staged a three-day hunger strike, a month before the failed hockey strike, which helped draw media attention in Canada. Nadia finally received her coveted exit visa in 1973. Her parents, the Walchuks and the Lenkos soon followed. They were the fortunate ones.

According to Roberts, many returnees died of malnutrition, committed suicide or simply vanished. And the homeland return movement seemed fated to remain a lost chapter in world war—until Roberts went to work. The Centre for Research on Canadian-Russian Relations at Carleton University is continuing that effort. As Roberts put it: "I couldn't do much for the numerous back in the 1950s, but I never forget them and their stories. More than that, they are a part of history and they shouldn't disappear from that."

the medical compiling of the homeland stories. Back in Canada, the returnees were soon forgotten. In a rare center-penny account, Blair Fraser, visiting Moscow, described them in a March 30, 1957, *Maclean's* article as "among the poorest people in our country."

**BETWEEN 1955 and 1960, thousands went back to Russia and Ukraine, then desperately struggled to leave again**

that has no shortage of sorry people." Meanwhile, Nadia Golik, who was 17 when her parents took her to the Soviet Union, began fighting to return "home." Over several trips to the Canadian embassy, she was followed, watched by the RCMP, interrogated in isolation and wanted to abandon all efforts to leave. Nadia's parents, caught to their own fate, supported her. Canadian diplomats were sympathetic, but powerless. Then in 1960, Canadians started were subject



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## WHERE TIME STANDS STILL

In the East Kootenays, we don't reset clocks, we change time zones

### I'M LIVING on Kootenay Time

When I moved with my family last summer from a rapidly growing town west of Calgary to the steep slopes of Kootenay Lake's East Shore in the British Columbia interior, time was the measure of my life. Trained by years of juggling prior deadlines and children's school and extracurricular schedules, I had a healthy respect for the ever-present watch on my wrist. I had no idea that life in the East Kootenays is not measured in minutes and

hours, but in, say, more conceptual terms.

Appointments are always touched with wiggly room, and only ferries and school buses stick to schedules. At 10 a.m. I was aware of this different outlook—in Canada's busy cities would simply be mistakes for a lack of punctuality—I blundered on the mountain air, the warm beaches and the crystal-clear water at the lake. On a sunny day, the stars are breezy, making the whole abundant, and life seems full of creative possibilities. Who could think of rushing through the day?

But as fall settled in, I thought again about

this second time warp. Here in this corner of southeastern B.C., we're unaffected by the vagaries of seasonally adjusted time. Most like Saskatchewan, our clocks and watches remain constant throughout the year. Unlike Saskatchewan, however, when others change time, we change time zones.

Throughout the summer, two fully laden ferries surge back and forth across the lake on Pacific Daylight Time. After the tourists and summer cottagers disappear and it's time to "fall back" to standard time, the fall-time residents of the East Shore don't, in fact, reset the clocks. And voilà, we're on Mountain Standard Time, just like our Alberta neighbours 200 km to the east.

I was told that, historically, the time zone was delineated right down the centre of the lake. West and down for map-makers and those making them, highly impractical, according to the locals. In practice, the border between time zones is marked during the summer by a large signpost on Highway 3 between Yarrli and Creston, B.C.,

once daylight saving time ends, the sign moves west, coming to rest at the Kootenay Bay ferry docks.

The origin of this time-zone quirk is shrouded in mystery. A local hotel and breakfast operator suggested to me it's all the fault of the ferry. "The schedules would be too confusing for the tourists if they had to keep changing their watches in the middle of the lake." He has his hands full enough explaining to his waiters guests that they can't actually get on the ferry on Kootenay Day and arrive in Bullard on the western shore of

to wonder about that maze hour, twice a year, when time changes in most of the rest of Canada. I have this vision that the edge of the Mountain Standard Time zone line follows a B.C. Highway pickup truck up the road each fall, with the edge of the Pacific Daylight Time zone changing back down the road each spring, as the sign itself is being transported. Once the demarcation line passes into the United States, it follows the Idaho-Montana border—at least initially (Idaho has its own time zone anomaly, the northern part of the state is on Pacific Time, the rest on Mountain Time. But at least the demarcation line serves its purpose).

What political considerations had to take place here to create a movable time zone? Who decided, and for what reasons? Does anyone remember anyone? Or is this, like so many other historical decisions made by governing bodies, simply too old to ask questions in any language?

Even my computer was confused. On the morning of the switch, it asked me if I wanted to change back to standard time. I clicked "yes," but then I had to change the time zone often, as well. A less capable computer would have simply crashed.

As I made the change, I noticed the whole scenario. Where is the logic? What time is it? And how many hours away is

Ontario now?

It's no wonder people here try to simplify their lives by leaving their clocks permanently set to Kootenay Time. We go back and forth between daylight saving and standard time, bounce between Mountain Time and Pacific Time and the end result of all this shifting about? No change. It's confusing enough to make me want to pitch my watch into the lake. Where, I'm certain, it will jingle many others.

Kate Rowland is a freelance journalist and fiction critic-writer. To comment, write to her at [krowland@mac.com](mailto:krowland@mac.com).



the lake 25 minutes before they left. [We even have night boats—year-round residents—who won't cross the lake in the winter because it's too complicated to figure out the ferry schedule on each side.]

I called the ferry office to see if anyone there could elaborate. A recorded schedule was no help. So I followed up with a call to the local office of our provincial Transportation and Highways Ministry. Another recorded message, this time inviting me to leave one of my own. I'm still waiting for that return phone call.

Left in an information vacuum, I began

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## CLOSINGNOTES



## TV | Not your average Saturday morning cartoon

It's hard not to laugh at the sight of cartoon comedies, which epitomize the success of the *Three Amigos*, Canada's newest comic export. The trio—Shawn, Swift and Dickson—in a series of public service announcements on South African television, promote culture and HIV/AIDS prevention. "Humour is non-threatening and creates sensitivity, people remember," says Firdaus Kharsa, the Ottawa-based co-producer of the PSA. "For years, PSAs with such messages have been taken off the air in many countries, including South Africa, because people complained. We've not received a single complaint. Not one e-mail."

It helps that the goofy cartoons—designed in Ottawa—were created by South African Desmond Tutu. In fact, since their airing last December, they've achieved celebrity status. "People from all over South Africa knew about them," says Kharsa. "Proof they work was email evidence when my partner on this project [Brett Quinn] recently asked a group of protesters if they'd heard of the *Amigos*. They all knew exactly what he was talking about."

The success is even more remarkable



Shawn, Swift and Dickson have earned celebrity status in South Africa and are booked by advertising firms.

considering that until now the PSAs were only in English, using Canadian voice actors. Kharsa says the spots are currently being translated into five South African languages and will use Afrikaans to do the voice work. He also predicts the *Amigos*—created by ad volunteers in Canada, India and South Africa—will be on Canadian television this summer. "We want to be on TV in 100 countries, with 100 million worth of people that our brilliant people can see there," says Kharsa. "In the fight against HIV/AIDS, none of the attention has turned to giving drugs to those infected. That's very important, but prevention can't be forgotten." And that's where these anti-smoking, drug-prevention cartoons have a hard time.

JOHN HIRSH

## Dance | When East meets West

Roger Slater's *Late and Pick* (www.cbc.ca/dance)

Blending traditional Indian dance with ballet and musical arts, the acclaimed Montreal choreographer creates two highly unique works. Upcoming performances in St. Catharines, Ont., on March 27, Toronto from April 1-4, and Vancouver between July 12-15.

## LISTING

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According to actor and pop-art genius **Donald Suggs**, "the history of children's art doesn't start until about 1960." Around this time, a young artist named **Edward Ruscha** began preparing a series of self-published photographic books documenting everyday Los Angeles: decaying gasoline stations, vacant parking lots and encroaching cars. These themes were used partly to depict West Coast realism, today social commentary and conceptual mischief. **Don Edwards** Opportunities factor 2



20 photos of empty lots. Various food items and self-portraits of people of various ages and ethnicities. The appearance of the machine was the first of many. **Don Edwards** Opportunities factor 2



## John Intini starts a sentence ... Nardwaz finishes it

If there was an award for the angriest Canadian, **Nardwaz** (the Hansen brothers) would be a pretty good bet. Vancouver's ad-hoc celebrity interviewers—who have a weekly radio show and regularly appear on *Mychance*—often leave subjects confused by a hotbed of one-upsmanship. The 35-year-old, who moonlights as front man of the Vancouver-based punk band the Evaporators, recently finished *Maclean's* Assistant Editor John Intini's sentences.

**MY WILDEST NIGHT...** ... was earlier this month when a buddy from Ottawa came to my gig and brought 21 Hefe, a freshly killed venison for all of us to eat. **I'M NOT ASHAMED...** ... to take off my shirt and expose my back hair. Some people are disgusted by back hair and want it shaved. I like it—saying as people don't fight it on the, which has happened before. **THE PERFECT DAY...** ... is a day I don't encounter Ganda cheese

I get nukes from going to swimming pools and eating alfalfa sprouts and even less fruit, but something about Ganda cheese just diagrams me. **MY FAVOURITE TUNE...** ... is John Cagg's #13. It's four minutes and 35 seconds of silence. It symbolizes music before music was even invented.

**ONE PERSON I'D LOVE TO INTERVIEW...** ... is Brian Vanclay of the Beach Boys. I've been waiting him for ages. He's such a fascinating character.

**MY FAVOURITE TOPPING ON PIZZA...** ... is something random I don't like knowing what it is. For example, in the U.S. there is a burger joint called In-N-Out Burger. They chuck their own brains and make custom-order burgers. The best thing is they have a secret menu only a few people know about. I like mystery when ordering food.

FOR MORE "FINISH THE SENTENCES" VISIT [WWW.MACLEANS.CA/PEOPLE](http://WWW.MACLEANS.CA/PEOPLE)

## People | She's at the head of the class

The black, screen-armed pianist **Heather Bimbock** sometimes seems lost for her tacitly obvious task. And, indeed, the *Voices of the Year* (in 2006) award at the 2006 *Maclean's* Best Awards last month does owe a lot to her. Bimbock, Bimbock's brother, with its playful phrasing and infectious, is largely a product of her public education system. "I wasn't classically trained as a child. I learned all my technique from her direction and classroom music teachers," says Bimbock, who grew up in St. John's, Nfld.

Her academic credentials also led to an offer from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music. In 2007, Bimbock studied with the school's vocal jazz ensemble when it won *Journal of Music* magazine award for best college vocal group. Bimbock went on to form the *Black Jazz Quartet*, the *Black Jazz Singers*. But she had also given herself a deadline to produce a solo album. It's about time came out in 2008. And yes, she still refers to her deadline. "A time," however, is also an old-fashioned expression for party. "Just has its intricacies," says Bimbock, "but that doesn't mean you can't be entertaining."

Time is as her most these days for other reasons. The youngest captain of the 10-year-old has been scheduling more gigs and recording dates around her three-day job—leading a weekend unit at Toronto's Jazz FM, teaching jazz lessons at the University of Toronto and adding music services and movements to schools. As for creative efforts, pay off—a couple collaborative CDs are under review—the 35-year-old musician looks forward to her book, "I never looked at it as a novel," she says, "I want to read it all these days." It's, you might say, just a matter of time. **SUE PERLSON/SON**



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## THE INQUISITION OF SPAIN

Ignore the accusations: Spaniards voted out of fury, not fear

**BEFORE WE HEAR** from one more blowhard about the supposed cowardice of the Spanish people, let us consider what happened between the murders and the vote.

On March 11, 30 bombs exploded as commuter trains pulled into three Madrid stations. Two hundred and one people died and 1,500 were injured.

It was hardly obvious who the murderers were. Spain has endured 30 years of bombings—none as lethal as this—by ETA, a Basque separatist group. Less than a month ago, police stopped a truck carrying 500 kg of explosives toward Madrid. That was ETA. But the

scale of killing, complexity of the operation, lack of warning, all suggested al Qaeda.

The prime minister, Jose Maria Aznar, and his center-right Popular party had been successful and earned approval in their fight against ETA. Aznar's partner ship with George W. Bush against Islamic terrorism, especially his decision to join the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq to depose Saddam Hussein, was far less popular. Still, Aznar's party and its successor looked set to win the March 14 election. Journalists and police set to work. Hours after the attack, police turned up an un-



markeded dead that pointed to al Qaeda: one containing seven detonators and a tape recording of Koranic verses.

But Aznar's government worked hard to connect voters and the world there was only one option: ETA. The foreign ministry went Spain's diplomats around the world, telling them to "use any opportunity to confirm ETA's responsibility for these brutal attacks." When a reporter asked the Interior minister whether there might be an al-Qaida link, he dismissed the notion as "a miserable attempt to damage information and confuse people."

In the newspapers of El Periodico and El Pais, the headlines rushed to complete front pages with headlines reflecting the horrible a calamity about the culprit.

Then the prime minister of Spain called each newspaper.

Aznar asked both publishers the murderers were Argentine terrorists. They changed

their headlines to blame ETA. But as governments everywhere are always anxious to disavow, people think for themselves.

As the evidence piled up, Spaniards began to wonder whether their government was telling them the truth. "We'll learn on March 14 who did this," a newspaper named Jorge Jaretero told the London Sunday Telegraph during the weekend. "By then they'll have got their votes and another four years."

On Saturday, the day before the election, police arrested three Moroccan and two Indian. One of Aznar's ministers announced the arrest but told reporters ETA was still the likely suspect. A public television network cancelled a popular show without warning to broadcast a documentary on ETA terrorism.

How would you react?

By midnight Saturday, in town squares throughout Spain and in front of Aznar's Popular party offices, crowds of thousands

had launched into spontaneous protest, burning pens and pens, demanding the truth. Then they voted, in unprecedented numbers, and the Popular party government fell. Spain had a new prime minister, the Socialist José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero. He went to bring Spain's troops home from Iraq unless U.S. control is replaced by United Nations control.

It may be possible to believe Aznar didn't use mass murder as an excuse to lie to his country. It is easy to understand why court: his Spaniards believed he was lying.

We have had quite enough burning and switching in the last two years. Spanish soldiers joined their allies up go looking for weapons of mass destruction they haven't found. Their mission was to "disarm" Saddam—a word that appeared nine times in Bush's 2003 State of the Union address and not once in his 2004 address.

Ninety per cent of Spaniards disapproved of the Iraq war, but they were willing to support Aznar's party until they watched, astonished, as it used the mass murder of their fellow citizens as a pretext for political games.

It has been fashionable here in some circles to call the people of Spain cowards for the way they voted. "Spain voted to capitulate," David Warren wrote in the Ottawa Citizen. "Scare democracy, we are lighting an example of capitulation."

But there was no box on the Spanish ballot you could tick to make al Qaeda go away. They'll tell if the Popular party governs Spain. They'll tell if the Socialists do. The fight against terrorism will continue. But on March 14 the people of Spain had pressing business to take care of with a government they could no longer trust. Scare democracy? No thank you. They preferred to choose it.

Spain did not vote in fear but in cold fury. The same fury awaits any government that thinks its opposition to terrorism gives it a license to lie.

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